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**Pegasus** Rimini



**Unicorn** Cadiz



**Unicorn** Cordoba (Twin-Axle)





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▼ Alan Novelli



# SKIDDAW & DERWENT WATER

## CUMBRIA

This stunning view is from CatBells, a hill above Keswick and Derwent Water. You can park at the northern end (minus caravan), then tackle a short climb, before enjoying the easy ridge. Walk back along the shore of Derwent Water to your car or catch the ferry to Keswick. It's a popular family walk, even with young children. Famous fellwalker, Alfred Wainwright, described it as: "A family fell where grandmothers and infants can climb the heights together."

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W [stayinthornthwaite.co.uk](http://stayinthornthwaite.co.uk)

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*Lanefoot Farm Campsite is one of Cumbria's hidden gems. It's easily missed by those using the busy A66 in the Keswick area, as it's set on quiet back lanes in Thornthwaite and near the village of Braithwaite. It's a popular site and is often full at holiday time, so plan well ahead. Lanefoot has electric hook-ups and grass pitches, though access can be tight for large outfits. Both Keswick and this stunning view are close by.*





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# Go Barefoot!

We reveal a brand new British micro-caravan that combines amazing practicality with off-the-scale cuteness

## CURVY ONE-PIECE BODY

The body is a curvaceous, monocoque (one-piece) design, made in high-quality glass fibre. This design prevents water ingress through panel joints (there aren't any)... and looks stunning.

## BUY BRITISH

The makers have aimed for an all-British construction: chassis from York, body from Cheltenham, interior from the Cotswolds and front window from Blackburn!

WANT TO  
KNOW MORE?

Designed by entrepreneur, Cathy Chamberlain, for use at festivals, take a closer look at this egg-sclusive design.  
[W go-barefoot.co.uk](http://www.go-barefoot.co.uk)



## GLASS FIBRE

The strong and rigid glass-fibre body features a gel-coat finish that is both durable and resistant to scratches. Barefoot can be ordered in virtually any colour, and comes with a two-year warranty.



## SOLID WOOD

"No fake wood" was the mantra of the owner during construction. As a result, the worktops are solid oak, and other surfaces have a stylish and resilient 'Farrow & Ball-esque' vinyl finish.

## COLOUR CODED

A colour-coordinating, leather-clad Roberts radio is one of the highlights of the interior, which balances comfort and practicality with a double dose of 'cool'...

## SHOWER ROOM

It's compact but, with the shower tray sunk in between the chassis members, a six-footer fits in easily. Loo and basin ensure exceptional hygiene standards at Glastonbury!



WORDS & PHOTOS John Sootheran



caravanmagazine.co.uk



/caravanmag



@caravanmagazine

February 2016 Caravan 9







Solid oak tops and stylish vinyl finishes add to the Barefoot's appeal

**B**ehind every great van, there's a great woman. At least, I think that's how the saying goes. That maxim has certainly never been more true than in the case of the brilliant Barefoot caravan.

"It all started on a wet weekend camping with a friend and our kids in the Lakes," explains Cathy Chamberlain, founder of Go Barefoot, and the driving force behind this titchy-tourer project.

"We'd had two cold nights, and we just said: 'Why isn't there a nice, little caravan out there?'"

"I'd finished practising law and was looking to set up a new business, as self-employment is a more flexible option when you have kids. I looked around and couldn't find the kind of caravan I wanted, one that you can tow behind a reasonable-sized car, so I thought I'd make one."

After much research, Cathy employed the services of a small Cotswold company called Watsonian Squire, famed, since 1912, for its supreme quality and craftsmanship in the manufacture of motorcycle sidecars.



Cathy Chamberlain, creator

Cathy then called on the services of Britain's top transport-design students from Coventry University.

Ideas were transferred to paper and refined until the sketches looked like Cathy's vision.

Next, specialist engineer, Nick Shakespeare, created the profile of the caravan in clay. From that, a pattern was made from which to form a glass-fibre side panel. Then the team made another side and rigged it together with scaffolding, before forming the roof. It was then all put together to create a single shell – a monocoque caravan.

Once the bespoke chassis was fitted, it was time to fit windows and sort the interior.

It may only be the size of a £1m Knightsbridge apartment, but there is a lot squeezed into the Barefoot. A double bed, cooker hob, fridge, shower, loo, basin, cupboards, onboard water tank, sink and Truma Combi heating/hot water.

"The people I've met along the way have taken me seriously. Everyone has been surprised that I've known what I'm talking about, whether that was making a monocoque or the regulations.

The team I have around me now are absolutely brilliant. They're genuinely pleased that there's a woman coming into the industry, doing things differently and shaking it up a bit.

"I wanted the caravan to be made in Britain," she reveals, "including as many of the components as possible. I found a window manufacturer in Blackburn, who could make a front window that was E-marked. That was the biggest challenge. At one point I thought we'd have to go to Slovenia or Germany."

"Barefoot will never be mass-produced, it'll always be a hand-built niche product, that will appeal to a certain part of the market."

In fact, we think Barefoot will appeal to almost everyone, as its compactness and cuteness have universal appeal. The stumbling block for traditional caravanners may be the £21,950 starting price. However, as Cathy says, she's targeting the VW campervan market and, if you look at the prices of those, Barefoot suddenly looks like a bargain!

**W** go-barefoot.co.uk

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SMALL CARAVANS  
COMPARISON  
TEST IN NEXT  
MONTH'S ISSUE**





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NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE OF

# Caravan

MAGAZINE IS ON SALE  
9 MARCH 2016

# 50

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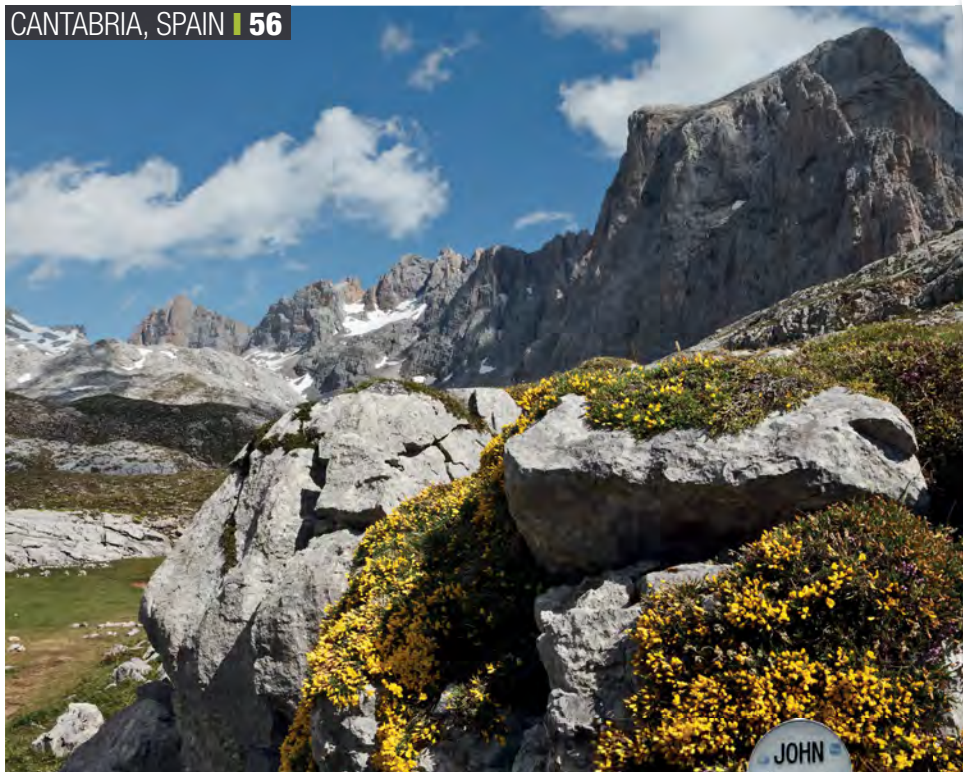


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\*Model shown is a VIP 575



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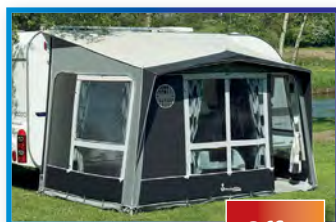
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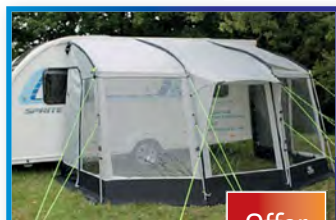
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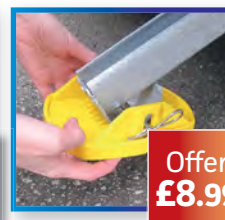
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# 2016 BEST CARAVANS



A total of 21 new models have been unveiled for 2016 from six caravan manufacturers, and there are lots of new features arriving on existing ranges.

- Two new models come from Slovenian manufacturer, Adria.
- Coachman launches the first ever fixed-bed two-berth, and

reduces weights across its ranges by up to 70kg.

- The Explorer Group launches six new models across its four brands, including Britain's first transverse twin-bed layout.
- From Bailey of Bristol a new Pegasus range arrives, with three fresh layouts.
- Four new island-bed models

and a new twin-bed layout have been unveiled from the Lunar stable.

- Swift launches a new, entry-level range of three six-berth layouts, and two new island-bed layouts also arrive.
- From this brilliant portfolio, we distilled a shortlist of Highly Commended caravans.

## THE 2016 AWARD CATEGORIES

- Best family caravan under £15,500
- Best family caravan over £15,500
- Best couples' caravan under £17,000
- Best couples' caravan over £17,000
- Lightweight caravan of the year
- Best luxury caravan
- Best layout award
- Innovation award

## Caravan AWARDS 2016

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



During the summer and autumn, as the manufacturers unveiled new models for 2016, the Caravan team scrutinised them all and then selected three very special caravans in each of the awards categories. These formed our shortlist of Highly Commended caravans, revealed in last month's issue.

Final judging took place at the NEC autumn show. The judges are managing editor, John

Sootheran, test editor, Val Chapman, digital editor, Ben Hackney-Williams and technical expert, Terry Owen.

### HOW WE JUDGED THEM

Each Highly Commended caravan was awarded marks according to a stringent scoring system that follows 10 criteria:

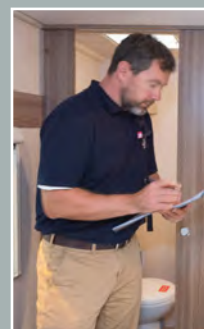
- Storage
- Sleeping accommodation

- Kitchen
- Showering
- Dining
- Lounging
- Styling
- Equipment level
- Towing equipment
- Value for money

The judges then chose one exceptional caravan from among the category winners, to take the title, Caravan of the Year.

## JUDGING

The four judges spent two days carefully scrutinising all the Highly Commended caravans using our strict scoring system. The winners of each category are those models which were awarded the highest scores in each category.



JOHN SOOTHERAN  
MANAGING EDITOR



BEN HACKNEY-WILLIAMS  
DIGITAL EDITOR



TERRY OWEN  
TECHNICAL EXPERT



VAL CHAPMAN  
TEST EDITOR

## AL-KO SUPPORTING THE CARAVAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

AL-KO, manufacturer of chassis components and accessories, is a company at the hub of caravan manufacture, supplying chassis for the vast majority of touring caravans built in Britain.

Arguably, the best known of AL-KO's vast range of accessories is the Secure Wheel Lock, widely respected

for its high effectiveness as a security device. In addition, AL-KO's ATC stability control system is fitted as standard to many caravans and as an option to many more. Other components for which AL-KO is well known include side-lift jacks, shock absorbers and the Mammut motor mover.







# BEST FAMILY CARAVAN UNDER £15,500

**SPRITE FREEDOM 6 TD** • £14,620 • MIRO 1170kg • MTPLM 1350kg



## WHY IT'S A WINNER

This new six-berth tourer gained its high marks from our judges for its no-frills, low-priced, low-weight approach to touring, giving first-time buyers, in particular, a brilliant-value option.

The Sprite Freedom 6 TD is one of three new six-berth caravans launched for 2016. All are based on Sprite layouts. They are lighter in weight than their Sprite equivalents.

The 6 TD is the only single-axle model. It's 29kg lighter than the Sprite model on which it's based; that's the Sprite Major 6 TD. This model has an excellent family layout, with bunk beds in the rear offside corner in a well-designed family room featuring a three-seater dining-playing area which converts to two more bunks.

Even though this caravan is a relatively modest 5.83m in body length, it achieves two distinct areas, making it an exceptionally practical layout for a family.



**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Xplore 586  
Adria Altea Eden

THIS NEW SIX-BERTH TOURER GAINED ITS HIGH MARKS FROM OUR JUDGES FOR ITS NO-FRILLS, LOW-PRICED, LOW-WEIGHT APPROACH TO TOURING





# BEST LUXURY CARAVAN

**BUCCANEER CLIPPER** • £30,899 MIRO 1797kg MTPM 1956kg

## WHY IT'S A WINNER

It's laden with luxuries. It's extraordinarily spacious. And it levels itself.

The Buccaneer Clipper is an awesome caravan, winning its category easily for a number of key reasons including its unique layout, with transverse twin beds that retract by about 40cm, to turn into day recliners, and creating lots of floor space. It's a fantastic caravan, with equipment including underfloor heating, a water tank, a huge fridge-freezer and a device which monitors mains power load, switching off the Alde heating while you are using a high power-consumption appliance, to prevent your pitch's supply from tripping out.

This is the only range of caravans equipped with an automatic, touch-of-a-button levelling system. The process is controlled from a handset. It takes less than two minutes.



**HIGHLY  
COMMENDED**

Lunar Delta RI  
Sterling Elite 650

IT'S LADEN WITH LUXURIES. IT'S EXTRAORDINARILY SPACIOUS.  
AND IT LEVELS ITSELF WITH THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON.  
THE BUCCANEER CLIPPER IS AN AWESOME CARAVAN



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February 2016 **Caravan** 19







# BEST FAMILY CARAVAN OVER £15,500

COMPASS RALLYE 636 • £25,399 • MIRO 1585kg • MTPLM 1762kg



## WHY IT'S A WINNER

This superbly-designed six-berth won its class by a long way, gaining high marks from all four judges in all our scoring sectors.

What makes this caravan outstanding isn't just its size, and therefore spaciousness. It's the layout, with a big dining area on the offside, easily capable of seating four. This area converts to a double bed. Two more beds, this time fixed bunks, are immediately behind the dining area.

The full-width shower room has family practicality in spades, and the kitchen has plenty of surface space to make preparing meals for six just about as easy as it can be in a caravan.

The big Rallye also gained high marks for its level of equipment, giving family buyers a luxurious option, with Alde heating that you can control remotely, from your phone. Practicality, too, earned high marks; this caravan has seating fabric that is designed to be stain resistant; spillages can be wiped off with just plain water on a cloth.

HIGHLY  
COMMENDED

Coachman Vision 570  
Bailey Pegasus Palermo



THE BIG RALLYE GAINED HIGH MARKS FOR ITS LEVEL OF EQUIPMENT, GIVING FAMILY BUYERS A LUXURIOUS OPTION WITH ALDE HEATING THAT YOU CAN CONTROL REMOTELY, FROM YOUR PHONE



# BEST COUPLES' CARAVAN UNDER £17,000

VENUS 570/4 • £15,199 • MIRO 1165kg • MTPLM 1350kg



## WHY IT'S A WINNER

The new addition to the brilliant, lightweight Venus range for 2016, with a transverse island bed, brings this increasingly popular layout within weight and price scope of buyers looking to keep both figures down. It gained high marks for, in particular, its long kitchen, its storage capability and its value for

money. The shower room got high marks, too; the washbasin is large, oval and sits up stylishly on top of its cabinet. There's a rail across the shower ceiling; that's immensely practical, for hanging not just towels, but rain-soaked coats, to dry.

Added to all that, the 570/4 looks more spacious than its mid-range dimensions would suggest.

THE NEW TRANSVERSE-BED VENUS BRINGS THIS LAYOUT WITHIN WEIGHT AND PRICE SCOPE OF BUYERS LOOKING TO KEEP BOTH FIGURES DOWN

HIGHLY  
COMMENDED

Bailey Pegasus Modena  
Sprite Alpine 4







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\* Prices exclude a recommended dealer delivery charge of £545. Swift Group reserves the right to alter specifications and prices at any time as materials and conditions demand. Check [www.swiftgroup.co.uk](http://www.swiftgroup.co.uk) for current details.

† Offer terms and conditions: Only applies to 2016 season Challenger and Eccles models ordered between 21st January 2016 and 28th February 2016. Model must be taken from the first batch available. Offers close at 6pm on 28th February 2016. Offers may be withdrawn at anytime and without prior notice.

Turning up  
the heat!  
**FREE // Alde®**  
heating  
upgrade†







# BEST LIGHTWEIGHT CARAVAN

**XPLORE 586** • £15,399 • MIRO 1155kg • MTPLM 1350kg



## WHY IT'S A WINNER

Amid manufacturers' quests for ways of reducing caravan weights, the award for Best Lightweight Caravan is arguably one of the most important. When we defined the Highly Commended shortlist for this award we scrutinised caravans with MTPLM figures under 1500kg. But this award isn't simply about figures. It's about recognition of how well a caravan performs for the market for which

it's designed. All three contenders gaining high marks in all scoring sectors. The six-berth Xplore edged slightly ahead of its stiff competition, though. This new model, with bunk beds and a side dining area, is brilliantly designed for great family holidays.

Our judges scored it highly on practical aspects, and also on appearance, its sunny-holiday hues of turquoise creating a lively image with strong appeal.

HIGHLY  
COMMENDED

Venus 570/4  
Adria Altea Eden



# 2016 INNOVATION AWARD

**DREAMSLEEP UPHOLSTERY CONSTRUCTION BY BELFIELD FURNISHINGS**



## WHY IT'S A WINNER

Unique to the new Bailey Pegasus range, DreamSleep is an innovation in lounge-bed upholstery construction.

The backrests are high, and curved; a shape not previously seen in caravans.

The DreamSleep construction (patent pending) enables the seating upholstery to be transformed into a double bed in just a few seconds. Each seat section folds out, creating two sections, to make the mattress. The four backrests don't form part of the bed, and two can be used as supports under pillows.

DreamSleep is the invention of Derbyshire company, Belfield Furnishings. The upholstery sections are made from high-quality dense foam.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Whale Expanse space and water heating system





## BEST LAYOUT



### WHY IT'S A WINNER

With competition from Britain's first two-berth tourer with a fixed bed (the Pastiche 470) and an excellent twin-lounge family caravan, (the Vision 570), the newest Delta was up against strong contenders for this award. The Delta RI, the only

caravan with a transverse bed in a separate room at the back of the caravan, won high marks in all sectors, in particular for its excellent, large kitchen, its capacious storage, its equipment level for its price and overall value for money.

## LUNAR DELTA RI

• £26,199 • MIRO 1550kg • MTPLM 1710kg



HIGHLY  
COMMENDED

Coachman Pastiche 470  
Coachman Vision 570



THE DELTA RI, THE ONLY CARAVAN WITH A TRANSVERSE BED IN A SEPARATE ROOM AT THE BACK OF THE CARAVAN, WON HIGH MARKS IN ALL SECTORS



## BEST COUPLES' CARAVAN OVER £17,000

### ADRIA ADORA ISONZO SILVER COLLECTION

• £19,390 • MIRO 1512kg • MTPLM 1750kg

### WHY IT'S A WINNER

When the first Isonzo arrived two years ago it won our Best Layout Award. Now, for 2016, the Isonzo has additional equipment including Alde heating, a redesigned kitchen, an illuminated kitchen wall and more. This spacious, apartment-like caravan is now even better, and awesome value, too. The extra equipment amounts in value to £3200. Yet the new Isonzo casts only £445 more than the previous model. That's astounding value for an eight-metre long, 2.45m-wide caravan.

It has lots of refined features including a bed structured in two halves, so that the pillow ends can be raised independently to turn one, or both, into day loungers.

The new-style kitchen has a bigger fridge, the oven moves from aft of the kitchen into the main kitchen area, and a microwave is now standard.



HIGHLY  
COMMENDED

Lunar Lexon 560  
Bailey Pegasus Brindisi

THIS SPACIOUS CARAVAN IS NOW EVEN BETTER, AND AWESOME VALUE, TOO, WITH EXTRA EQUIPMENT AMOUNTING IN VALUE TO £3200



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## HUGE, & GREAT VALUE

This 2.45m-wide, 8.2m-long caravan now has brilliant Alde heating, plus stacks of extra equipment amounting to £3200 in value. All this for less than £20,000

## DINING SPACE

Loads of seating space and a neat mini table to hinge up for snack times

# ADRIA ADORA ISONZO SILVER COLLECTION

To win Caravan of the Year, a tourer has to be simply sensational. The Isonzo won our top title soon after its launch two years ago. Now, with a new kitchen layout, Alde heating and enhanced spec, it's even more extraordinary. The best of the best just got better!



WANT TO  
KNOW MORE?

Turn to page 23 and then  
page 94 for our in-depth  
review of this caravan

## THE KITCHEN

The kitchen gets a new design for 2016, with a huge fridge-freezer, lots of drawer space and lighting set within the wall!

**WORDS** Val Chapman  
**PHOTO** John Chapman





# Caravan

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# ADRIA

# 50 <sup>1965</sup>/<sub>2015</sub>

## Living in Motion



\*Winner of New Caravans - Best Manufacturer at the Practical Caravan Owner Satisfaction Awards 2014

### ANGUS

Top Road Tourers  
Halfway Garage, Woodside  
Angus DD7 7SD  
Phone: 01382 533599  
Email: enquiries@toproadtourers.co.uk

### HERTFORDSHIRE

Venture Caravans Hitchin  
The Rose Gardens, Hitchin  
Hertfordshire SG4 0JX  
Phone: 01462 452856  
Email: hitchin@venture-caravans.com

### PEMBROOKE

Tenby Tourers  
Llanteg, Pembroke,  
Pembroke SA67 8QE  
Phone: 01834 831900  
Email: ryan@zedten.co.uk

### SUSSEX

Roundstone Caravans  
Worthing Road, Southwater  
Horsham, Sussex RH13 9JG  
Phone: 01403 730218  
Email: admin@roundstonecaravans.com

### AYRSHIRE

Eglinton Caravans  
Unit 3 McMillan Place, Riverside Business  
Park Irvine, Ayrshire, KA11 5DB  
Phone: 01294 311002  
Email: info@eglington-caravans.co.uk

### LANCASHIRE

Westfield Caravans  
60 Chorley Road, Blackpool  
Lancashire FY3 7XQ  
Phone: 01253 301505  
Email: sales@westfieldcaravans.co.uk

### PONTEFRACT

Barnsdale Leisure  
Mayfield Farm, Doncaster Road,  
East Hardwick, Pontefract WF8 3EQ  
Phone: 01977 621918  
Email: sales@barnsdale-leisure.co.uk

### TYNE AND WEAR

Washington Caravans  
Durham Road, Birtley  
Tyne and Wear DH3 1PR  
Phone: 01914 107555  
Email: sale@washingtoncaravans.co.uk

### DERBYSHIRE

Geoff Cox Leisure  
122 Derby Road, Denby Ripley  
Derbyshire DE5 8LG  
Phone: 01332 781562  
Email: sales@geoffcox.co.uk

### LANCASHIRE

Stewart Longton Caravans  
Chorley Town Centre By-Pass, Chorley  
Lancashire PR7 1SA  
Phone: 01257 220222  
Email: motorhomes@stewartlongton.co.uk

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Highbridge Caravans  
A38 Bristol Road, Highbridge  
Somerset TA9 4EX  
Phone: 01278 782725  
Email: caravansales@highbridgecaravans.co.uk

### ESSEX

Caravan world  
Woodlands Business Park, Tenpenny Hill,  
Thorrington, Colchester, Essex CO7 8JD  
Phone: 01206 255055  
Email: caravan-world@btconnect.com

### NORTHANTS

Venture Caravans Daventry  
Toll House, Watford Gap  
Northan NN6 7UJ  
Phone: 01327 703371  
Email: sales@venture-caravans.com

### STOCKTON ON TEES

Teesside Caravans  
Fleck Way, Teesside Industrial Estate  
Thornaby, Stockton On Tees, TS17 9JZ  
Phone: 01642 764455  
Email: sales@teesside-caravans.co.uk

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**Editor**  
John Sootheran

# welcome



## We made this

Our writing/design staff and the three things that got us through this month...

### John Sootheran Managing Editor

E johns@warnersgroup.co.uk  
SSangYong Rexton off-roading, Belstaff  
Panther jacket, Teva walking boots

### Ben Hackney-Williams Digital Editor (Caravan & Parks)

E benh@warnersgroup.co.uk  
White wine epiphany, Walking Dead series  
6, Freak Speak poetry nights

### Val Chapman Caravan Test Editor

E valc@warnersgroup.co.uk  
Making carrot & coriander soup in our Bailey,  
brighter winter bulbs, 80% cocoa chocolate

### Lisa Watson-Bailey Art & Design Supremo

E lisawb@warnersgroup.co.uk  
Downgrading to a motorhome – treachery,  
Judas Iscariot, 30 pieces of silver, etc

### Claire Tupholme Travel & Sites Editor

E clairet@warnersgroup.co.uk  
Waterproofs, a trip oop north, hot chocolate

## Our super-talented contribs

### Monica Rivron

Puts the sauce in caravan cuisine.  
Literally and metaphorically!

### John Chapman

Val C's wingman. Top snapper,  
videographer and oracle

### Gayle Ripper

Gayle and her clan (including Olga the  
dog) are our fave caravan ambassadors!

### Lynne Maxwell

Our super-sub has taken to  
caravanning like a duck to l'orange!

### Susie Kearley

Susie's caravan is aptly named a  
'Freedom', she's never at home

### Terry Owen

Our Terry has a caravan IQ of 160 and  
a double-first from Oxford in towing!

HAVE YOU GOT  
SOMETHING TO SAY?

Visit us on the link below  
or give us a shout  
on social media



## COMPACT & BIJOU



As an XL-sized 'gentleman', I've almost always thought that bigger is better. But, recently, I've started to appreciate the smaller things in life.

We're increasingly hearing that people want more small sites in the mag – small sites, CLs and CSs, being not only cheaper but often in more remote and beautiful spots.

There also seems to be increased interest in small caravans. These tiny tourers can be towed by lightweight cars, such as Minis and Fiats, and deliver most of the benefits of a full-sized caravan. We've just spent two days testing and videoing six small caravans for next month's issue, but as a wee taster, check out the delightful Barefoot on page 8.

## 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016!

Starting on page 35, see how many of the brilliant events and activities you can get under your belt in this next caravanning year. Oh, and let us know how you get on.

## FOGGY ON ANGLESEY

We met Carl 'Foggy' Fogarty of motorcycle racing and 'Jungle' fame at the NEC recently.

What a nice, genuine fella he is. He's done it all, too; going from the back of a Tranny van (at the start of his racing career), to caravan, to motorhome, to RV and then on to log cabin at Plas Coch Holiday Park on Anglesey. "Anglesey is great for fishing and mountain biking; the beaches are beautiful and the water's dead clear." The cabin's gone now and Foggy's back on the move in full touring mode.



"It was very nice, but I only spent four hours there. That was it, 'cos I won the bloody thing. And I checked out and got a bill for three-and-a-half grand! The kids were spending a fortune on drinks and food and stuff!" Foggy on the I'm A Celebrity... hotel (should've taken a caravan!)

## The trouble with awards!

Here at Caravan, we go to great lengths, shortlisting and carefully judging each year's best tourers, to give our valued readers all the information they need.

But, in a small industry like ours – with just six manufacturers – you can 'make a rod for your own back'. Imagine what would happen if one manufacturer won every award!

Some mags are really lucky,

and their judging throws up at least one winner from each manufacturer... year after year. Everybody's happy, but is that practical approach giving the most important people, the readers, the right information?

At Caravan we have a rule: the best caravan wins, even if that means a manufacturer missing out. So, the winning caravans on pages 17 to 25, really are the best of the best – and I'll have been busy explaining why to anyone who leaves the awards empty-handed.



Adria.  
Very happy.  
This year!

"TRAVEL AS MUCH AS  
YOU CAN. AS FAR AS  
YOU CAN. AS LONG AS  
YOU CAN. LIFE'S NOT  
MEANT TO BE LIVED  
IN ONE PLACE"  
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February 2016 Caravan 29



# FEBRUARY Events

## CORNWALL

**UNTIL 30 OCTOBER**  
**LANHYDROCK AT WAR**  
**Lanhydrock, Bodmin,**  
**Cornwall PL30 5AD**  
**T 01208 265950**  
**W [nationaltrust.org.uk/lanhydrock](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/lanhydrock)**

Viscount Clifden's children were pursuing promising lives and careers when the First World War broke out. A new exhibition in the gatehouse shows how war affected the family and the wider estate.

 **Rosebud Farm Touring Park**  
**W [rosebudfarmtouringpark.co.uk](http://rosebudfarmtouringpark.co.uk)**



▼ NTPL Andreas von Einsiedel



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
**6 FEBRUARY**  
**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS**  
**WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT**  
**T 01453 891223**  
**W [www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/slimbridge/whats-on](http://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/slimbridge/whats-on)**


Keen snappers might like to join this wildlife photography course, which begins with an introductory presentation on composition, technique and equipment, and then provides individualised tuition, during a day of practical photography.

 **Tudor Caravan Park**  
**W [tudorcaravanpark.com](http://tudorcaravanpark.com)**

## EAST SUSSEX

**12 AND 13 FEBRUARY**  
**VALENTINE'S DINNER**  
**Bodiam Castle, Bodiam, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5UA**  
**T 01580 831324**  
**W [nationaltrust.org.uk/bodiam-castle](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/bodiam-castle)**

Visitors to Bodiam Castle can enjoy a Valentine's dinner with champagne. There's an after opening-hours talk and romantic walk past the floodlit castle, concluding with a candlelit dinner in the Terrace Room. Booking essential.

 **Eagles Garth Camping & Caravanning Club CS**  
**W [eaglesgarth.co.uk](http://eaglesgarth.co.uk)**



▲ VisitBritain Rod Edwards

## POWYS

**27 FEBRUARY TO 6 MARCH**  
**CRICKHOWELL WALKING FESTIVAL**  
**Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre (CRiC), Beaufort Street, Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1BN**  
**T 01873 811970**  
**W [crickhowellfestival.com](http://crickhowellfestival.com)**

The festival offers a selection of 80 guided walks, enabling you to choose a length, route and gradient that suits your interests and abilities. There's also a full programme of music, quizzes, and talks. CRiC houses a café, art gallery and information centre.

 **Isaf Farm Camping & Caravanning Club CS**  
**W [campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk](http://campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk)**

1 2 3 4 5 **6** 7 8 9 10 11 12 **13** 14 15

## DERBYSHIRE

**6 FEBRUARY**  
**WINTER WARRIOR**  
**Donington Park, Derbyshire DE74 2RN**  
**W [xrunner.co.uk/winter-warrior-obstacle-race](http://xrunner.co.uk/winter-warrior-obstacle-race)**  
 Dubbed 'the ultimate obstacle race and mud run', this 5-10km obstacle course includes a climbing zone, avalanche, human cannonball, balance beams, tightropes, tunnels, ladders, hurdles, cargo nets, mud and more. Spectators are permitted.

 **Donington Park Farmhouse Hotel Caravan Site**  
**W [parkfarmhouse.co.uk](http://parkfarmhouse.co.uk)**

▼ VisitBritain Simon Winnall



▼ VisitBritain Daniel Bosworth

**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
**27 FEBRUARY**  
**COASTAL TRAIL RUN**  
**Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland NE69 7DF**  
**T 01548 312314**  
**W [endurancelife.com](http://endurancelife.com)**  
 The Northumberland coastline has sandy beaches, dunes, rocks, islands, and nature reserves. There are four options for runners to choose from: a 10K run, a half marathon, a marathon or a 35-mile ultra run – all part of the Coastal Trail Series.

 **Bamburgh Touring Caravans**  
**W [bamburgh-touring-caravans.co.uk](http://bamburgh-touring-caravans.co.uk)**

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

**20 FEBRUARY**  
**HELLFIRE CAVES GHOST HUNT**  
**Church Lane, West Wycombe, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3AH**  
**T 01159 720570 (office hours)**  
**M 07837 845912 (until 9pm)**  
**W [hauntedhappenings.co.uk](http://hauntedhappenings.co.uk)**  
 The Hellfire Caves, once owned by Francis Dashwood MP, who formed the Hellfire Club, welcomes ghost hunters for organised vigils, using ghost detection equipment, ouija boards, and EMF Meters. Unsuitable for disabled people (and scaredy cats).

 **Home Farm Camping and Caravan Site**  
**W [homefarmradnage.co.uk](http://homefarmradnage.co.uk)**



## NORTH YORKSHIRE

**VARIOUS DATES IN FEBRUARY**  
**WINTER ABBEY TOURS**  
**Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Water Garden, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 3DY**  
**T 01765 608888**  
**W [nationaltrust.org.uk/fountains-abbey](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/fountains-abbey)**  
 Take a guided tour this winter, learning about the site's dramatic history, the lives of the monks who lived here, and the challenges they faced. Don't miss the beautiful water garden! Or join a family nature walk.

 **Howgrave Hall Caravan Site**  
**W [ukcampsite.co.uk](http://ukcampsite.co.uk)**



## GWYNEDD

**17 TO 19 FEBRUARY**  
**MODEL RAILWAY SHOW**

**The National Slate Museum,  
Llanberis, Gwynedd  
LL55 4TY**

**T 029 2057 3700**

**W [museumwales.ac.uk/slate/whatson](http://museumwales.ac.uk/slate/whatson)**

Visit the National Slate Museum for its annual Model Railway Show, described as a steam-filled spectacular. Miniature steam engines will take children on rides, and there are talks, demonstrations, storytelling for kids, and a test track for your own miniature 00mm-32mm gauge engines.

 **Bryn Gloch Caravan & Camping Park**  
**W [northwalescamping.co.uk](http://northwalescamping.co.uk)**

▼ Stuart Crawford



## GLASGOW

**17 TO 28 FEBRUARY**  
**GLASGOW FILM FESTIVAL**

**Glasgow Film Theatre,  
12 Rose Street,  
Glasgow G3 6RB**

**T 0141 332 6535**

**W [visitgff.glasgowfilm.org](http://visitgff.glasgowfilm.org)**

Immerse yourself in creativity and film at Glasgow Film Festival. The programme of events includes the opening gala, 'Meet the Filmmakers', Q&As, masterclasses for filmmakers, films from around the world, and musical performances.

 **Red Deer Village  
Holiday Park**  
**W [reddeervillageholidaypark.co.uk](http://reddeervillageholidaypark.co.uk)**

## NORTH YORKSHIRE

**19 FEBRUARY**  
**BRIMHAM ROCKS  
AND BEYOND**

**Summerbridge,  
Harrogate, North  
Yorkshire HG3 4DW**  
**T 01423 780688**

**W [nationaltrust.org.uk/brimham-rocks](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/brimham-rocks)**

Join a guided walk around Brimham Rocks at 2pm and hear about 320 million years of dramatic geological history, in a 90-minute walk exploring the rocks and moorland of this natural playground.

 **Shaws Trailer Park**  
**W [ukcampsite.co.uk](http://ukcampsite.co.uk)**



▼ National Trust Paul Harris



## LONDON

**14 FEBRUARY**  
**CHINESE NEW YEAR**

**Chinatown, London**

**W [chinatownlondon.org](http://chinatownlondon.org)**

It's the Year of the Monkey in 2016 and celebrations will start with a parade on Charing Cross Road, then pass through Chinatown. Expect music, dancing, dragons and fireworks at the celebrations, said to be the largest outside Asia.

 **Crystal Palace  
Caravan Club Site**  
**W [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk)**



16 17 18 19 **20 21** 22 23 24 25 26 **27 28**



## EAST SUSSEX

**THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY**

**LECTURE LUNCHES**

**Bateman's, Bateman's Lane  
Burwash, East Sussex  
TN19 7DS**

**T 01435 882302**

**W [nationaltrust.org.uk/batemans](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/batemans)**

The former home of Rudyard Kipling is open this February for a series of lecture lunches, with readings from classic literature including Alice in Wonderland, Pickwick Papers, and a lecture on Beatrix Potter. Booking essential.

 **Idle Hours Owsbury Park**  
**W [campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk](http://campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk)**

## DEVON

**18 FEBRUARY**  
**BASH AND BURN**

**Mortehoe village car park,  
Devon EX34 7DR**  
**T 01598 763402**

**W [nationaltrust.org.uk/woolacombe-mortehoe-and-ilfracombe](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/woolacombe-mortehoe-and-ilfracombe)**

Join a fun, family, volunteering day cutting gorse and building a bonfire with rangers, then toast marshmallows by the fire. A great way to keep warm on a cold February day! Tools and advice provided; suitable for children of five years and over.

 **Hidden Valley Park**  
**W [hiddenvalleypark.com](http://hiddenvalleypark.com)**

▼ National Trust Andrew Butler



## HAMPSHIRE

**27 DECEMBER TO  
7 FEBRUARY**

**HIDDEN TREASURES  
OF HINTON AMPNER**

**Petersfield Rd, Bramdean,  
Near Alresford, Hampshire  
SO24 0LA**

**T 01962 771305**

**W [nationaltrust.org.uk/hinton-ampner](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/hinton-ampner)**

Hinton Ampner was damaged by storms and the roof is now being restored. There's a new exhibition displaying some of the gems hidden for 30 years that have been found in the attics during the restoration.

 **Two Hoots Campsite**  
**W [twohootscampsite.co.uk](http://twohootscampsite.co.uk)**

▼ National Trust



## CORNWALL

**20-21 FEBRUARY**

**APPLE GRAFTING WEEKEND**

**Cotehele, St Dominick,  
nr Saltash, Cornwall  
PL12 6TA**

**T 01579 351346**

**W [nationaltrust.org.uk/cotehele](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/cotehele)**

Cotehele has apple grafting workshops coming up in February. Visitors can learn the craft and take away their own grafted tree for £5. Choose from more than 20 local apple varieties. No need to book.

 **Dolbeare Park Caravan and  
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**W [dolbeare.co.uk](http://dolbeare.co.uk)**



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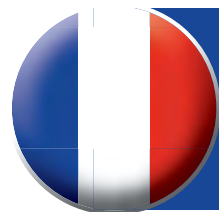


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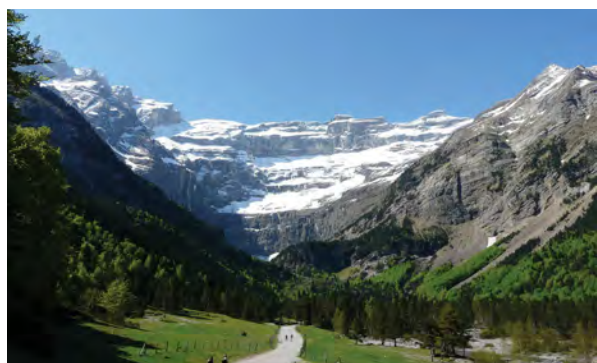


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# EXPLORE THE PYRENEES FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY TO THE CIRQUE DE GAVARNIE



## Top 10 things to do:

1. Visit Biarritz with its Sea Museum, the Rocher de la Vierge and stunning surfing spots.
2. Visit the picturesque city of Saint Jean de Luz and don't miss out on the famous Basque traditional cake, which can be bought from the shop 'Maison Adam'.
3. Take the sightseeing train to la Rhune, from which you can admire the French and Spanish coast along with the Pyrenean mountain tops.
4. Take a stroll in Guethary, a picturesque Basque village with its fishing port and traditional market place.
5. Espelette is a village lying at the foot of the mountains, and world-famous for its hot pepper widely use in most Basque dishes.
6. Lourdes, the third most visited place in the world and highly popular among Catholic pilgrims.
7. The astronomical observatory of Pic du Midi, located at 2876 meters above sea-level, is well worth a visit.
8. The Cirque de Gavarnie is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, set in the heart of the Pyrenees National Park.
9. Taste the famous cake 'gâteau à la broche', which is traditionally baked in a fireplace.
- 10 The dramatic Col du Tourmalet, is one of the Tour de France's most popular spots. Don't miss it!

Located on the extreme south-west of the Hexagon, the region stretches from the Basque coast to the Cirque of Gavarnie, this area offers a wide variety of breathtaking landscapes within a small area. Whatever your interests are, and whether you prefer an active or relaxing holiday, this region really is unmissable!

The scenery is sensational. In one day, you can see the Biarritz coastline, the green hills of the Basque country; the picturesque streets of Bayonne and the dramatic Pyrenean peaks. It's a photographer's paradise.

Add to this the region's fine

cuisine and superb local wines, and you've got the perfect holiday setting for families *and* couples!

The area around the Cirque de Gavarnie, with the omnipresent Pyrenees, is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Meanwhile, the Basque coastline offers a truly unique destination. Balanced between tradition and modernity, the Basque country is home to many French celebrities who love to 'work' and play in the area – this includes many renowned surfers in Guéthary and Saint-Jean de Luz, both popular for their typical Basque country houses.



## SUNSHINE CHART (AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE PER DAY)



11

Apr



13

May



14

Jun



14

Jul



13

Aug



12

Sept



10

Oct

## DRIVING DISTANCES

<b>Calais</b>	662 miles	<b>Caen</b>	498 miles
<b>St Malo</b>	454 miles	<b>Bilbao</b>	92 miles
<b>Le Havre</b>	530 miles	<b>Santander</b>	152 miles

## USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://tourisme.biarritz.fr/>  
<http://www.tourisme64.com/>  
<http://www.saint-jean-de-luz.com/>  
<http://www.tourisme-hautes-pyrenees.com/>



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★★★★

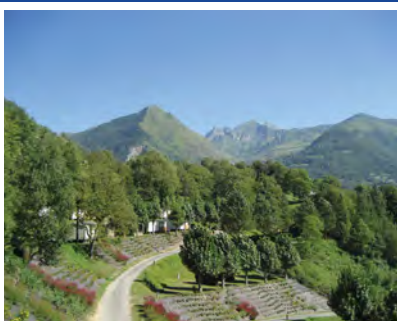
*Luz St Sauveur*

- Indoor heated pool
- Indoor & outdoor spa
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- Multisport playground
- Mini golf
- Inflatable games
- Trampoline

**Opening dates**

20/05/2016 – 30/09/2016

Gavarnie, Tourmalet mountain pass (renowned among cyclists), The Pic du Midi, Cauterets Pont d'Espagne, Lourdes.


[www.international-camping.fr](http://www.international-camping.fr)
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*Bidart*

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- A colourful campsite
- Campsite near 600m of sandy beach

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for rentals

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[www.uronea.com](http://www.uronea.com)
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- Wine tasting organized

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[www.camping-pyrenees-natura.com](http://www.camping-pyrenees-natura.com)
**CAMPING LE PAVILLON ROYAL**

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- Surfing spot

**Opening dates**

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[www.pavillon-royal.com](http://www.pavillon-royal.com)
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- Lagoon
- Indoor swimming pool
- View over Pic du Midi

**Opening dates**

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A mountain beach resort.


[www.lemonloo.com](http://www.lemonloo.com)
**CAMPING DU LAVEDAN**

★★★★

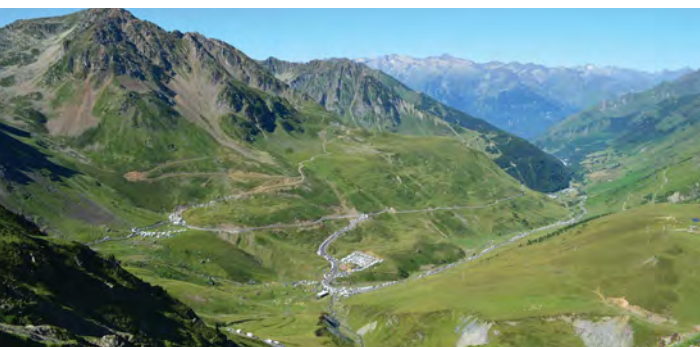
*Lau-Balagnas*

- Entertainment
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- Restaurant
- Warm and covered swimming pool

**Opening dates**

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We will welcome you in our friendly campsite. You will stay in a pleasant and quiet setting.


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Open all year round

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[www.larrouleta.com](http://www.larrouleta.com)

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GREAT THINGS  
TO DO IN 2016

Britain's biggest outdoor leisure club is the perfect partner to help you make the most of 2016. All 50 entries are matched with a Caravan Club campsite below, so you've absolutely no excuse for not getting out there to do something a bit different. Book your pitch, organise an activity and live a little!



If variety is the spice of life, why not turn 2016 into a raging vindaloo of holiday activity?

We've pulled together 50 diverse pursuits for you to try this year. Check 'em out, and have a bash!



## Caravan Club Sites Directory

- |  |  |  |
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| <b>1</b> Burford Caravan Club Site OX18 4JJ<br>T 01993 823080                  | <b>19</b> Garlieston Caravan Club Site DG8 8BS<br>T 01988 600636                             | <b>35</b> Merrose Farm Caravan Club Site TR2 5EL<br>T 01872 580380   |
| <b>2</b> Morvich Caravan Club Site IV40 8HQ<br>T 01599 511354                  | <b>20</b> Find the nearest site to Skype from!<br>01342 326944                               | <b>36</b> Le Point du Jour Caravan Club Site, 14810<br>Merville-Franceville-Plage, Normandy<br>T 0033 231 242334 |
| <b>3</b> Merrose Farm Caravan Club Site TR2 5EL<br>T 01872 580380              | <b>21</b> Uttoxeter Racecourse Caravan Club Site<br>ST14 8BD<br>T 01889 564172               | <b>37</b> Riverside Touring Park LL24 0AL<br>T 01690 710310  |
| <b>4</b> Chapel Lane Caravan Club Site B47 6JX<br>T 01564 826483               | <b>22</b> Read your <i>Caravan</i> digi mag at a CC site<br>01342 326944                     | <b>38</b> Abbey Wood Caravan Club Site SE2 0LS<br>T 0208 311 7708  |
| <b>5</b> Black Robin Farm CL BN20 7XX<br>T 01323 643357                        | <b>23</b> Marazion Caravan Club Site TR20 9DU<br>T 01736 710723                              | <b>39</b> Find the nearest site to play games at!<br>01342 326944  |
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| <b>7</b> St Agnes Beacon TR5 ONU<br>T 01872 552543                             | <b>25</b> Henley Four Oaks Caravan Club Site<br>RG9 2HY<br>T 01491 572312                    | <b>41</b> Bolton Abbey Caravan Club Site<br>BD23 6AN<br>T 01756 710433   |
| <b>8</b> Fairlight Wood TN35 4HY<br>T 01424 812333                             | <b>26</b> Rutland Caravan Club Site LE15 7FN<br>T 01572 813520                               | <b>42</b> Keal Lodge Caravan Site (CL) PE6 8RT<br>T 01778 346946   |
| <b>9</b> Kielder Water Caravan Park NE48 1BT<br>T 01434 250278                 | <b>27</b> Coed-Y-Llwyn Caravan Club Site<br>LL41 4EN<br>T 01766 590254                       | <b>43</b> Edinburgh Caravan Club Site EH4 5EN<br>T 0131 312 6874   |
| <b>10</b> Harbury Fields Farm CV33 9JN<br>T 01926 612457                       | <b>28</b> Daleacres Caravan Club Site CT21 4NW<br>T 01303 267679                             | <b>44</b> Prep your van before visiting a CC site<br>01342 326944  |
| <b>11</b> Brighton Caravan Club Site BN2 5TS<br>T 01273 626546                 | <b>29</b> Knaresborough Caravan Club Site<br>HG5 9HH<br>T 01423 860196                       | <b>45</b> Crystal Palace Caravan Club Site<br>SE19 1UF<br>T 0208 778 7155  |
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| <b>13</b> Longleat Caravan Club Site BA12 7NL<br>T 01985 844663                | <b>31</b> Culloden Moor Caravan Club Site IV2 5EF<br>T 01463 790625                          | <b>47</b> Stay at a CC site before your tow course!<br>01342 326944  |
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| <b>16</b> Trevedra Farm Caravan Club Site<br>TR19 7BE<br>T 01736 871818        | <b>34</b> Delftse Hout Caravan Club Site, Korftlaan<br>5, 2616, Holland<br>T 0031 152 130040 | <b>50</b> Glen of Aherlow Caravan Club Site<br>T 00 353 62 56555   |
| <b>17</b> Broomfield Caravan Club Site BN8 6QS<br>T 01825 872242               |  |  |
| <b>18</b> Find a Club site near your UK port<br>01342 326944                   |  |  |

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# 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016



## 1 Celebrate Capability Brown's 300th anniversary

Having a countable noun as a first name might be a bit strange, but we'll let that slide for Capability Brown – the renowned 18th century landscape architect who was sort of like the Monty Don of his day. This year marks the 300th anniversary of Brown's birth and, as such, it's going to be a year of manicured garden-based celebrations across the UK, involving many of the mansions and country estates where his work lives on. There are more than 150 places on these shores that benefited from his green-fingered vision, most notably, Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire ([blenheimpalace.com](http://blenheimpalace.com)) where Brown was commissioned for an impressive 11-year stint.

Check out [capabilitybrown.org](http://capabilitybrown.org) for more information on where you can go to see the fruits of the labours of one of Britain's greatest and best-known creative talents.



## 2 Go for a drink in Britain's most remote public house

When a place is billed as Britain's remotest pub, reached by either an 18-mile hike or a seven-mile boat journey, it'd better be worth it – and in the case of The Old Forge in Knoydart, Scotland, it most certainly is ([theoldforge.co.uk](http://theoldforge.co.uk)). You can check out [knoydartferry.com](http://knoydartferry.com) for the timetable of regular

daily crossings, but those who invest the time to visit are rewarded with stunning loch views and an atmosphere as friendly and intimate as it's possible to find. You can quench your thirst with any number of its micro-brewery ales, then stuff your rumbling belly with fresh seafood like langoustines and hand-dived

scallops (the venison and seafood pizza is also worthy of investigation). Music is another big part of The Old Forge experience – bands are always playing and musical instruments line the walls for those who want to join in. You'll never want to leave, which is just as well – your chances of getting a taxi are zero.



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### 3 Ice skating at the Eden Project

If the festive season is about anything, it's getting your bobble hat and scarf on and going ice skating inside some artificial biodomes. Fortunately, that's exactly what you can do every winter at the Eden Project in Cornwall ([edenproject.com](http://edenproject.com)), where the curious plant-filled structures are converted into a magical winter wonderland of skaters effortlessly doing triple Salchows and Axel jumps while Boléro plays in the background. Actually, it's like most other ice rinks – full of kids whooshing around and completely humiliating the adults, who are clinging to the side like Bambi after seven pints. It really is a fantastic place to skate, though, and the good news is that it's open until 28 February. At £6 for a 40-minute session, you can't go wrong.

John Leslie



### 4 Go to Crufts

The incredible, manicured and ever-so-slightly bizarre world of Crufts is as British as tea and stiff upper lips and, from 10-13 March, the Birmingham NEC hosts the most prestigious dog show on earth ([crufts.org.uk](http://crufts.org.uk)). Crufts was first held in the Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington in 1891 and, even back then, 2000 dogs were entered. These days, it's as popular and keenly contested as ever, but one of the best things to watch out for is the litany of absurd names that these pooches have been saddled with. Previous contestants have been called things like Braccorians Goddess of Love, Fishwich Cor Blimey and Dyrham Playboy of Chilworth, while last year's winner was McVan's To Russia With Love (try yelling that at your local park without getting some weird looks and the occasional volley of abuse).

Tickets are from £16.50, but you'll need to buy an additional one for a similar amount to get into the Best in Show bit.

### Eastbourne Extreme

If you thought Eastbourne seafront was mainly the preserve of those in their later years having a very leisurely stroll along the promenade... er, you'd be right. But, on 16 and 17 July, all that changes with Eastbourne Extreme – a sports festival full of highly talented and borderline insane people doing incredible things on land, at sea and in the air ([visiteastbourne.com/extreme](http://visiteastbourne.com/extreme)). From freestyle mountain bike stunt riders to windsurfers launching into the stratosphere, the other jaw-dropping thing about this festival of fearlessness is that it's absolutely free to get in. Before you know it you'll be saying things like, 'I say, did you check out that gnarly dude getting hella sick air on that switch backflip?' Whatever that means.



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# 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016



## 6 Cardiff International Food Festival

Hands up who likes to stuff their face with food? If your arm is stretching towards the ceiling and you're squealing 'Me! Me!' in a slightly annoying, high-pitched voice, then you need to get yourself and your eager taste buds to the Cardiff International Food and Drink Festival on 10-12 July ([cardiff-events.com](http://cardiff-events.com)). Set in the city's fancy harbour area, a good time and slightly expanded waistline are guaranteed as you join 60,000 people in roaming the fresh food stalls, cheekily sampling produce and watching top chefs go about their whizzy knife-chopping business. It goes on well into the evening each day as well, with live music and entertainment mingling perfectly with the array of tasty fare. The food police might moan about the calories and booze on offer but, quite frankly, life is too short when there's pizza in the world.

## Go surfing

Surfing in Britain has always had two main drawbacks: it's not Hawaii, and us pasty Brits don't look as cool as tanned, Aussie Adonis-types who've just breezed in off the set of *Neighbours*. Nevertheless, these shores are regularly hit with sizeable waves that are just begging to be taken on by people in wetsuits standing on top of a board made of polyurethane foam. The great news is that you don't have to be a pro surfer to make the most of it – and it's also

a misconception that the only place you can surf in Blighty is Cornwall. Naturally, that's the most popular location, and a swift Google of 'Cornwall Surf School' will give you quite a few choices ([cornwallsurfacademy.com](http://cornwallsurfacademy.com) to name but one). But Bournemouth in Dorset, Pembrokeshire in Wales and Thurso in Scotland are also great surfing destinations, so what are you waiting for? Pack your caravan, head to the coast and learn something new in 2016, dude.

7







## 8 Re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings

Right then, who fancies watching a load of blokes in chain mail going ballistic in a Sussex field to commemorate the anniversary of Britain's most famous battle? If that's a hearty 'oh, yea' we can hear then you're in luck in 2016, because the year marks the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings ([english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk)). During the weekend of 10-11 October the battle will be re-enacted, and for the first time you'll be able to watch this choreographed savagery from the rooftop of the Great Gatehouse of William the Conqueror's abbey (in the aptly named village of Battle). Given that the real thing involved extreme violence with spears, swords, crossbows, maces and battleaxes that could remove a head with one swipe, as well as King Harold getting killed by an arrow through his eye, we're hoping the protagonists don't get too carried away.

## 9 Stargazing at Kielder Observatory

Deep within the Northumberland National Park, roughly 50 miles north-west of the dazzling lights of Newcastle, sits a wooden, box-like structure that could easily double up as some sort of remote Scandinavian boutique hotel. It is, in fact, the Kielder Observatory, a wonderfully minimalist antidote to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich and one of Britain's best spots for stargazing. The reason it's so great is the darkness: there's barely any light pollution and Kielder actually sits under the third largest protected Dark Sky Reserve on earth. You've got to book ahead ([kielderobservatory.org](http://kielderobservatory.org)), but it's less than £20 to get in and at certain times of the year you'll even be able to see the Northern Lights – without having to trek to the Shetland Islands.

▼ Paul Williams



## 10 Visit the British Motor Museum, Gaydon

Attention all car-obsessive males and long-suffering wives of petrolheads looking for ideas for a day out with him indoors: the brilliant British Motor Museum in Gaydon, Warwickshire, could be right up your strasse ([britishmotormuseum.co.uk](http://britishmotormuseum.co.uk)). That's because not only is it the world's largest collection of British cars, with nearly 300 on

show, but it's currently undergoing a £4 million revamp that will see it get bigger and better when it reopens its doors to the public on 13 February 2016. You'll be able to see some of the most famous cars ever made by us Brits, before the Germans came along and got better at it. Highlights include various Bond cars, the *Back to the Future* DeLorean and Lady Penelope's pink motor from *Thunderbirds*.





# 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016



## 11 Paraglide off Devil's Dyke in Brighton

With the Lake District and Cotswolds often hogging Britain's 'amazing scenery' limelight, it's easy to forget that there are some real hidden gems on these shores – not least the South Downs. And one of the most popular spots on this hilly beauty spot is Devil's Dyke – so called because apparently Lucifer once tried to dig a trench from the nearby sea to flood the county's churches. The dramatic valley lends itself to hiking, running and mountain biking, but if you're feeling adventurous why not go paragliding off the top of it ([airadventure.co.uk](http://airadventure.co.uk))? For £140 you basically run off the edge, catch a thermal and then imagine you're some sort of half-human, half-kestrel as you soar about Sussex with majestic grace. It's an amazing experience – the thing that strikes you is how calm and quiet it is up there.

## 12 The year of Shakespeare!

It's 400 years since William Shakespeare and his feathered quill exited stage left to heaven, but the legacy of Britain's greatest ever play knocker-upper lives on. As such, a year of celebrations dedicated to the bearded sonnet scribbler is planned in 2016, and there's a host of stuff to choose from. King's College in London has organised a series of exhibitions, cinema screenings and even radio performances to enjoy ([shakespeare400.com](http://shakespeare400.com)), but if you really want to get down with the Bard, his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon is where it's at. The weekend of 23 and 24 April are his birthday celebrations, where there'll be a carnival atmosphere and all sorts of stuff going on (see [shakespeares-england.co.uk](http://shakespeares-england.co.uk) for details). Also, no Shakespeare-based visit to Stratford is complete without a visit to the majestic RSC – check out [rsc.org.uk](http://rsc.org.uk) for performance details.



## Visit Longleat House

If you live in a 400-year-old stately home with nearly 10,000 acres of land, you might as well give Longleat House a miss. If, however, you like the idea of mooching around a princely abode that makes Downtown Abbey look like a slightly dishevelled post-War semi, then this is somewhere that's seriously worth investigating ([longleat.co.uk](http://longleat.co.uk)). It's a fascinating place: its 40,000-odd books give it one of the largest libraries in Europe, and let's not forget that it also has an amazing safari park attached to it as well. You can see lions, cheetahs, zebras and all sorts of exotic creatures, and driving through the park as monkeys go ballistic on your windscreen and roof is a brilliantly bizarre experience (be careful though – the monkeys can sometimes get, how do we put this... 'a bit excited'). Above all, the 130-room home is a lesson in the old adage that property will almost always rise in value. The original owner, John Thynee, bought it in 1540 for £53. You could probably add at least six noughts to that now.



## Go to Wimbledon

Now that Andy Murray has replaced limp-wristed mummy's boy Tim Henman as Britain's number one tennis player, there's an extra reason to get excited about Wimbledon. But regardless of our chances of home-grown glory, a visit to the All England Club should be on your to-do list when proceedings kick off on Monday 27 June. With the strawberries and Pimm's and men in blazers and the sound of rippling applause, Wimbledon could not be more British if Winston Churchill turned up in a Rolls Royce clutching a collection of Carry On DVDs. The incredible thing is just how close you can get to the players on the outside courts – there can't be another sporting

event in the world with this kind of access. A general admission ticket (the ones bought by those nutcases you see on the news who've been queuing for a week) costs £25. If you want to go to the show courts, it's worth entering the ballot on [wimbledon.com](http://wimbledon.com); Centre Court and Court 3 tickets are also sold online the day before play through [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk).





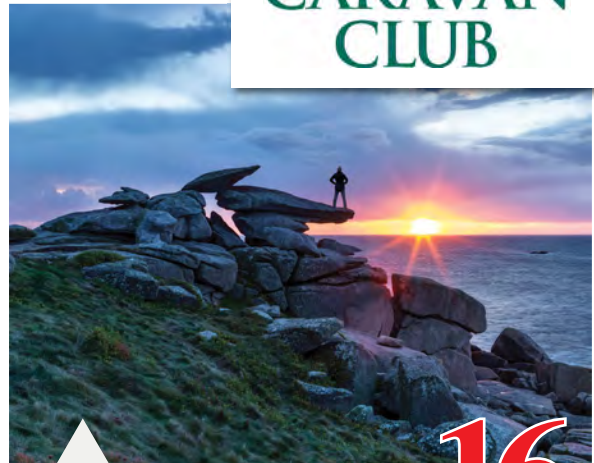
## Go to Alton Towers

Feeling in the mood for a vertical 180ft drop with your body subjected to 4.5 Gs, followed by pelting yourself from 0-60mph in 2.5 seconds? These are the kind of hair-raising capers that are on offer at Alton Towers, the UK's biggest and best theme park ([altontowers.com](http://altontowers.com)). Nestled in Staffordshire in between Derby and Stoke, Alton Towers has about 50 rides and nine rollercoasters spread over its 900-odd acres, with names like Nemesis, Oblivion and Ripsaw designed to strike fear into your craven heart before you've even joined the queues (which, be warned, can be fairly lengthy in peak season). It's not all full-on, though – CBeebies Land and the Water Park ensure family-friendly japes without any added heart attacks. The thing that might raise your pulse the most is the price of tickets – an adult can cost £50. The best bet is to buy online at the official website, which is much cheaper (the adult ticket here is £37).

15



▼ Jenny Brown



## Visit the Scilly Isles

About 30 miles off the coast of Cornwall, the Scilly Isles ([visitislesofscilly.com](http://visitislesofscilly.com)) consist of a main island and a small cluster of satellite ones – sort of like a British Hawaii, but without people wandering around in grass skirts and flowery garlands. In actual fact, the Scilly Isles are so quintessentially 'oldy worldy' Britain that going there is like being in an episode of *Heartbeat*. Highlights include Bant's Carn, a burial chamber dating back to at least 2500BC that's free to visit, and Rushy Bay, a stunningly quiet beach with clear water and sand as soft as icing sugar (bring your wetsuit if you want a dip, mind – the water temperature's a bit lively thanks to the Atlantic). You've got two options to get there: a little plane from Land's End airport that takes 15 minutes and costs about £70, or a boat journey for around £45 that lasts the best part of three hours.

16



▼ Jon Page

17

## Go to a major bonfire night celebration

If you want to celebrate Guy Fawkes' night in spectacular, chaotic, flame-licking style, there's only one option: Lewes Bonfire Night ([lewesbonfirecelebrations.com](http://lewesbonfirecelebrations.com)). For 364 days a year this sleepy Sussex town near Brighton is a quaint network of hilly cobbles and genteel locals but on 5 November, all hell breaks loose as it hosts Britain's biggest bonfire celebration, which dates back to at least 1679. Up to 80,000 people turn up to see the huge processions through the streets, with 17 fiery crosses carried to mark the 17 Protestants who were burnt in Lewes in the 16th century. There's also loads of dressing up, leaping through flames and a sense of humour that's not for the PC brigade – last year they burnt a giant effigy of David Cameron and a pig's head. It's free to get in but best leave the kids with the babysitter for this one. Child friendly it ain't.

## Go to Scandinavia

Ah, Scandinavia: home to dodgy jumpers, epic scenery and people who speak English better than we do. But for those with the time for exploration, this part of northern Europe can offer truly unforgettable experiences. Now that there's no ferry from Newcastle to Bergen, your best route into Scandinavia by boat is Harwich to Esbjerg in Denmark ([aferry.co.uk](http://aferry.co.uk)); from here, a three-hour drive to the Danish town of Hirtshals could get you a short boat hop to the lovely town of Kristiansand in Norway,

or you could venture into Sweden (smoothest roads in Scandinavia). Whatever you choose, you're guaranteed friendly locals, landscapes that look like they're from a Hollywood movie and eye-watering prices that make you yearn for home (£10 for a pint of beer in Oslo, anyone?). Norway is the most expensive country up here, and its road tolls for caravans measuring over six metres long are steep. At least Denmark and Sweden have Lidl and Aldi to stock up on cheaper stuff.

18



▼ Michael



# 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016



## 19 Explore a magnificent garden

Students: they're not all layabouts with questionable personal hygiene and a constant diet of beer and Pot Noodles. Take the magnificent Threave Estate in southern Scotland ([nts.org.uk](http://nts.org.uk)) – its beautiful gardens, some of the most stunning in Britain no less, have actually been created over the years by students at the National Trust's School of Heritage Gardening. Spring and summer are the best times to visit Threave for vivid colours provided by the herbaceous beds and seemingly millions of daffodils, and a series of walking trails means you can mooch around to your heart's content and get great value for the £7.50 ticket price. The whole place is even better if you're into birds – there's a nature reserve with loads of ospreys and pink-footed geese regularly hang out here, too.

## 20 Learn to use Skype

If you're the sort of person who's still impressed at the technological capabilities of the fax machine (how on earth can you send a picture through a phone wire, for goodness sake!), then you're going to have to go and lie down if you've never got to grips with Skype. Basically, Skype is a clever piece of software that lets you make free video calls to other people – wherever they are in the world. Simply download Skype off the internet and install it onto your computer, tablet or even smartphone, enter your details and create a user name, search for people you know and send them a friend request, a bit like you would on Facebook. Once they accept, you're free to call and chat away to your heart's content. Talking into a computer screen takes some getting used to, but if you have friends, children or grandkids who live far away, Skype will change your life.



▼ Peter Dutton

## 21 Go to the Acoustic Festival of Britain

All those Glastonbury-type festivals seem rather good fun but look like they could get a bit loud, don't they? Fortunately, earplugs are not required at the

Acoustic Festival of Britain ([acousticfestival.co.uk](http://acousticfestival.co.uk)), where a distinct lack of wall-to-wall amplifiers makes for a rather more relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. So, if you like blues, folk and a general air of strumming and singing, get yourself along to Uttoxeter Racecourse on 3-5 June and you'll be rewarded with fantastic performances, family fun and an ale tent that will provide you with quality beverages and a slight headache about eight hours after you leave it. The even better thing about the festival is that caravans are allowed, so if you add a tenner to the price of your £90 weekend ticket you can rock up to your pitch, sort out your awning and get in the thick of the action.



▼ Sean Rowe



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## Download a digital magazine

Now it goes without saying that when we put 'download a digital magazine', we mean *Caravan* right? Good – glad we've cleared that up. But seriously, getting your favourite magazine (that's us) onto your tablet or phone is a great, modern way of enjoying a title that's been around for over 80 years, meaning you can flick, click and touch our unbeatable content to your heart's content. You can get it from a few places, notably our website, [outandaboutlive.co.uk](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk). If you've got an iPad or iPhone you can also go onto [itunes.apple.com](http://itunes.apple.com) and search for 'Caravan' – a single issue is £2.99 or a 12-month subscription costs

£32.99. If you don't have a fancy Apple device then you can go to [pocketmags.co.uk](http://pocketmags.co.uk) and download *Caravan* onto anything you like – the cost of an annual subscription's the same.

22



## Go dolphin spotting

Everyone loves dolphins, don't they? With their smiley faces and cheeky clicking noises, they're

intelligent, graceful and acrobatic – and, as it turns out, hanging around off the coast of Cornwall. Google will tell you that there are a few places near Land's End offering tours, but the best one we've found is through Marine Discovery ([marinediscovery.co.uk](http://marinediscovery.co.uk)) – that's because you have a very good chance of seeing dolphins with them, and they're also the only company of their kind in the UK who collect scientific data of the dolphins while they're out at sea. Running from March to November, one-and-a-half hours will set you back £18 while four hours is £45, and it's not just dolphins you might see – late May gives you a good chance of seeing basking sharks, while you might even spot the odd minke whale in early autumn if you're lucky.

## Take the Jacobite steam train

Fans of precocious boy-wizard Harry Potter may recall the incredible steam train journey he took to get to Hogwarts. Well, the good news is that this wasn't just dreamed up in CGI – the train journey exists, and you can experience it for yourself between May and late October. Called The Jacobite ([westcoastrailways.co.uk](http://westcoastrailways.co.uk)), the lovely old Flying Scotsman-esque steamer snakes its way along an 84-mile route and

chugs you peacefully from Fort William to Mallaig, via the tiny village of Arisaig with the most westerly mainland train station in Britain. It takes just over two hours each way and a return is £34 per adult – or £58 if you're thinking of treating yourself to posh class. A fantastic and magical way to see one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland.

24





# 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016

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## 25 Learn to dance!

Come on, admit it: every Saturday night when *Strictly's* on, you watch the likes of Brendan Cole and Aliona Vilani flip, twirl, shimmy, shuffle, spin and glide about and think, "I wish I could do that." Well 2016 is the year you CAN do that, people. Dancing is great fun, really sociable and a fantastic way to keep fit – have you seen how many pounds some of the celebrities shed when they're on *Strictly*? There are loads of places to learn, one of them being the brilliant Berkshire Ballroom in Bracknell ([berkshireballroom.co.uk](http://berkshireballroom.co.uk)). Whether you want to learn a graceful Waltz, passionate Paso Doble or a bottom-shaking Salsa, they've got it covered. Private lessons cost £40 an hour, but if you just fancy something a bit more informal to start with then check the website – they do beginners' classes for £8.50 and a Sunday Social for a fiver.



## Birdfair

# 26

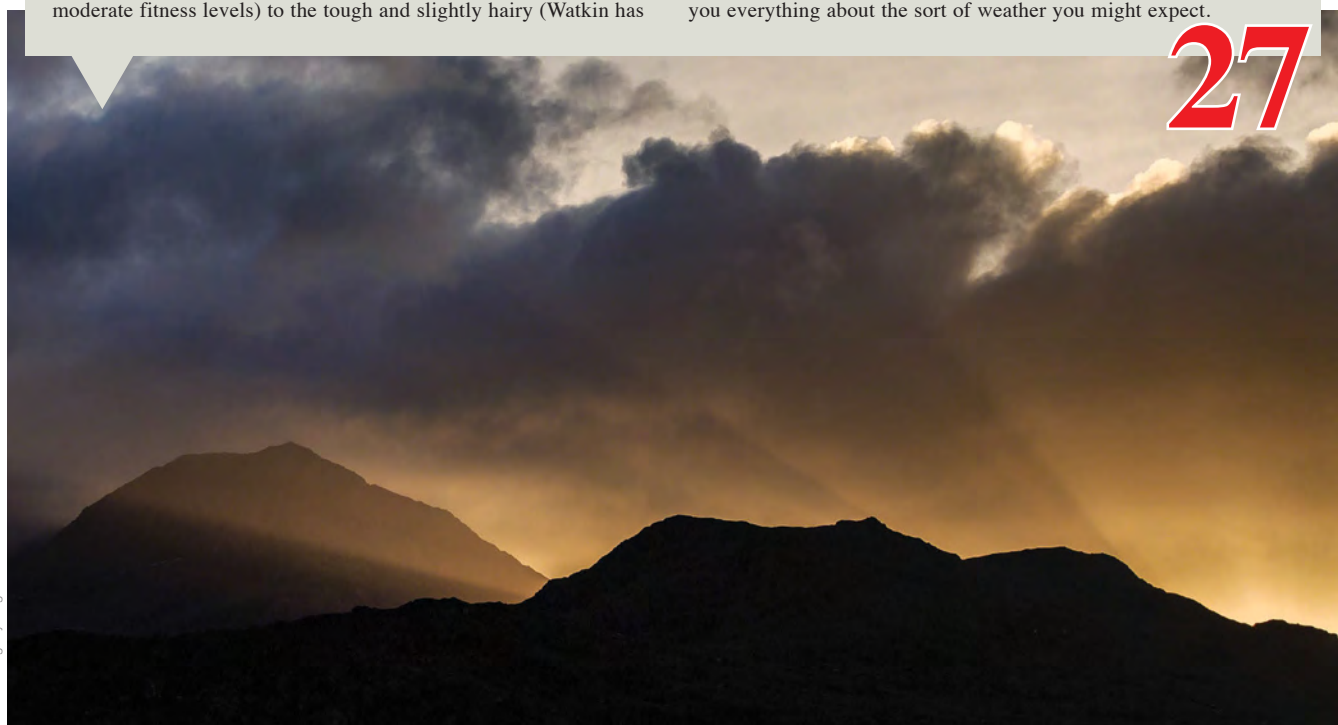
We're a proud nation of twitchers, and every year the biggest gathering to celebrate birds and wildlife is Birdfair, held at the tranquil Rutland Water Nature Reserve not far from Leicester ([birdfair.org.uk](http://birdfair.org.uk)). It's described as the 'Birdwatcher's Glastonbury' and we can see why – you can spot thousands of our feathered friends, buy virtually any bird-related product going from one of the many stands and listen to the sage wildlife wisdom of experts like Chris Packham, who's a regular speaker and guest. Tickets for Birdfair 2016, which is on 19-21 August, are available from the website from March, so keep your eyes peeled. The event has a rather charming atmosphere and even offers free parking, so grab your binoculars and get yourself down there.

## Climb Snowdon

Strapping on your walking boots and striding to the top of the highest mountain in Wales might seem like a daunting task, but climbing Mount Snowdon is actually very achievable thanks to the several different ways you can reach the 3560ft summit ([walkupsnowdon.co.uk](http://walkupsnowdon.co.uk)). There are six routes, ranging from the straightforward (the Miners' Track is suitable for novices with moderate fitness levels) to the tough and slightly hairy (Watkin has

an ascent of 3300ft). The great thing about Snowdon is that you don't have to come down the same way you went up – regular Sherpa buses at the bottom can shuttle you back to one of the six car parks. A quick word about the car parks: they fill up quickly so get there early, and they usually cost about £4 – except for the Miners car park which is a tenner. Oh, and don't forget your waterproofs. You're going up a mountain in Wales – that should tell you everything about the sort of weather you might expect.

# 27



▼ Adrian Kingsley-Hughes







## NEW Seed

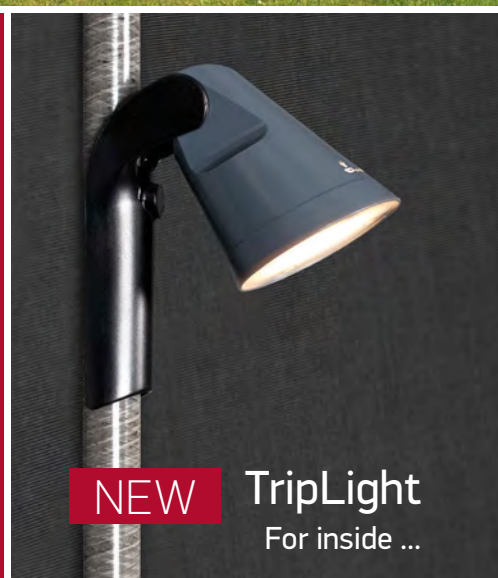
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# 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016



## Battle of the Somme

# 28

One hundred years ago, the Battle of the Somme raged for nearly five months and claimed over a million casualties. Even in the volatile times we now live in, that's an astonishing number that still takes your breath away when you lose yourself in silent thought. It makes it all the more important that we should never forget the bravery and sacrifice of the tens of thousands of people who gave up their lives, their loved ones, their dreams and ambitions, so that we could enjoy a freedom that should never be taken for granted. To that end, a special service

on 1 July at Thiepval, France, will remember those who died ([somme2016.org](http://somme2016.org)). Many of the 8000 tickets for that have already been allocated, but check the website to see the many other ceremonies taking place that you can attend.



# 100<sup>th</sup>

## ANNIVERSARY



## Go and see the London Marathon

Since 1981, people have been pushing their bodies to the limit, raising millions for charity and running just over 26 miles dressed as gorillas in the London Marathon, one of the most iconic distance races in the world ([virginmoneylondonmarathon.com](http://virginmoneylondonmarathon.com)). Starting in Greenwich and taking in sights like Canary Wharf, Tower Bridge and the London Eye before finishing near Her Maj's gaff on The Mall, a great day out can be had by going along and cheering on some of the 30,000-odd runners as they push

through the pain barrier for worthy causes. If you know someone who's competing you can actually track their progress through the website, which also gives good advice on the best areas to spectate and busy places to avoid (Greenwich can get packed). It's crowded and there's lots of queueing for tubes, but the atmosphere makes it a unique day out. And if you ever think you've got it tough, spare a thought for Lloyd Scott: in 2002 he ran the marathon wearing a 59kg deep-sea diving suit. It took him six days.

## Become a master baker

# 29

If you ever watch the Great British Bake Off with your arms folded, jealously wondering how people can bake cakes and breads with such precision and perfection, you needn't despair. Help is on hand throughout Blighty to discover your inner Mary Berry – and schools don't come much better than Betty's Cookery School in Harrogate ([bettyscookeryschool.co.uk](http://bettyscookeryschool.co.uk)). There are loads and loads of courses to choose from: Baking for

Beginners (£170) aims at the fledgling Paul Hollywoods among you, while many more will have you fashioning tasty morsels like elaborate tarts and streusel slices. Before you know it you'll be serving your friends intricate baklavas and croquembouches and saying, 'Oh, it's just a little something I knocked up.' You need never tell them they took you six hours, obviously.

▲ Jennifer Yin



# 30



## The Malt Whisky Trail

Do you love caravanning in beautiful, rugged scenery? And are you partial to a quality single malt? If you're reading this and nodding so feverishly that your head is in danger of becoming detached from your spinal column, then you need to get a visit to Scotland's Malt Whisky Trail in your life ([maltwhiskytrail.com](http://maltwhiskytrail.com)). Centred around the cluster of world-famous distilleries in Speyside, about an hour's drive from Inverness, the sweeping countryside is home to many of the most well-known names you'll have seen on the labels of whisky bottles, like Glenduffich, Cardhu and Glenlivet. Each distillery offers tours and, of course, the opportunity to sample their golden nectar: Cardhu is only a fiver for their most basic tour, while Glenfiddich is £10. You might want to book a taxi back to the caravan site afterwards, mind.

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## Caravan Your Kids Clever

If you want to turn your kids or grandkids into serious brainboxes, you're not going to do it by tying them to a desk and getting them to read a maths textbook followed by the complete works of Tolstoy. What you need is somewhere engaging and fun to pique their interest – and nowhere fits the bill like the Natural History Museum ([nmh.ac.uk](http://nmh.ac.uk)). Located a short amble from South Kensington tube station in West London, it's a grand, gigantic building filled with eye-popping wonder – like the first T-Rex fossil ever found and a genuine Megalosaurus tooth among their hugely impressive dinosaur hall. There's also a complete and interactive explanation of how the human body works (and a real brain to have a look at), plus an array of stuff way too vast to list here. The museum is free but beware, it gets very busy – especially at weekends. It opens at 10am every day – even if you saunter up half an hour after that, expect to queue for a while.

33



## Go to the Peterborough Beer Festival

If all this reading's making you thirsty, here's a date for your diary: the Peterborough Beer Festival, from 23-27 August ([peterborough-camra.org.uk](http://peterborough-camra.org.uk)). The biggest outdoor real ale festival in the UK and now in its 39th year, fans of unique beer-related beverages will revel in the 450-odd liquid specimens on offer, but some of the ales are a bit on the lively side so we recommend taking it half a pint at a time. Particular tipples to look out for are the Orange

Cream Soda ale (like a slightly boozy dessert) and the chillingly titled Ripper – at 8.5% ABV, no good can come from drinking too much of this. It's usually about £2 to get in before 3pm and £6 after, meaning a cheeky all-dayer could well be on the cards. A good tip is to visit the beer fest earlier in the week, before all the good ales run out and the whole thing ends up ponging of a bad hangover.

32



# 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016

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## Go to Holland

All countries have their stereotypes, and for Holland it's clogs, windmills and the, er, 'adult' pursuits of Amsterdam – but both its capital and the Netherlands as a whole have a lot more to offer than that. First of all, it's a very accessible country from Britain, with three ferry links on offer depending on where you live. There's Harwich to Hook of Holland (eight hours), Hull to Zeebrugge (13 hours) or Newcastle to Amsterdam (15 hours) – prices can vary wildly so have a look at [directferries.co.uk](http://directferries.co.uk), but the good news is you can take your 'van with you. As one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, Amsterdam is a must-see, with its stately canal houses, serene waterways and endless array of bridges (Magere Brug is a must-see), but its ease on the eye is closely matched by Utrecht – if you like Baroque and Gothic architecture mixed with canals you'll be in business here. Check out [holland.com](http://holland.com) to really plan your trip and you'll be rewarded with a fascinating experience that's literally on our doorstep.

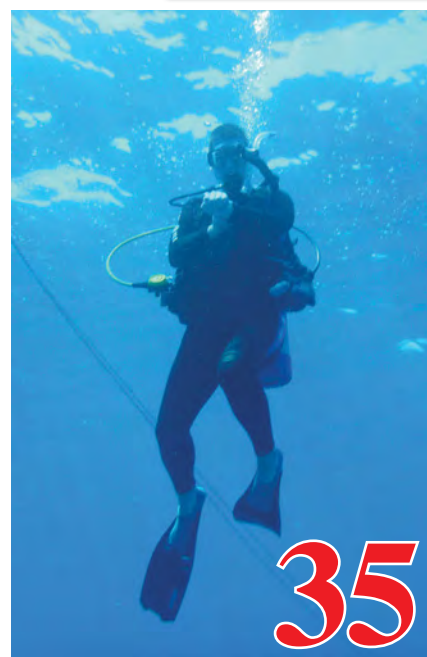
34



▼ Noyan Brenn

## Scuba diving in Cornwall

You don't have to pack your bags for Hawaii or the Maldives if you fancy a spot of scuba diving – the shores of Blighty are the perfect place to get stuck in, and nowhere is better than Cornwall. From as little as £45 you can learn to dive at the Cornish Diving School in Falmouth ([cornishdivingschool.co.uk](http://cornishdivingschool.co.uk)), and when you're ready to venture out to sea there's an entire marine world to explore. One of the things that makes this part of the country so good for diving is its colossal number of shipwrecks: several thousand boats have come a cropper here over the centuries. The famed Lizard Peninsula has historically proved a particularly treacherous area for vessels, but its combination of deep and clear water, reefs and wrecks that still contain treasure (we're not joking) make it a great place to explore with a wetsuit, flippers and oxygen tank.



35

## Go to Normandy

With caravan-friendly ferries from Poole, Portsmouth or Newhaven ([directferries.co.uk](http://directferries.co.uk)), Normandy is incredibly accessible. It also boasts enough attractions to keep you busy for a whole summer.

If you're looking at a shorter break, then Normandy's beaches are an obvious starting point, with Utah, Gold and Omaha just three of many offering stunning stretches of sand that also have huge historical significance due to their use in World War II. Ouistreham and Caen are well worth a gander, while the German gun battery at Longues-sur-Mer are well preserved and worth visiting.

Along the coast between Cherbourg and Le Havre you'll find Bayeux and a 70-metre-long rug that's definitely not available in Allied Carpets, while the little island of Mont St-Michel and its 11th century abbey is another one that you'll kick yourself for missing. Art buffs might also fancy nipping south of Rouen to Giverny, home of that water-lillied garden and green bridge that Claude Monet once parked his easel and canvas in front of.



36





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# 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016



## 37 Go white water rafting

Sometimes, you just feel the need to slip into a wetsuit, grab a paddle, get in a dinghy and hurtle down some rapids... don't you? Yep, there's nothing quite like white water rafting to quicken the pulse and generally give you a right soaking. One of the best places to do it in the UK is at the National White Water Centre in Wales ([ukrafting.co.uk](http://ukrafting.co.uk)). Here, you'll be careering down the Tryweryn in Snowdonia – a full-on mountain river

that'll keep a group of you busy with the paddles as you negotiate its forceful gushes. White water rafting actually grades rivers from one to six – one being mild and gentle and six being one step away from hurtling over the edge of Niagara Falls – and this place has experiences near both ends of the spectrum (up to grade four). A full-on two-hour sesh will set you back about £66 per person, while an hour is about £35. Oh, and bring a towel. You'll need that.

## Buy Linkee

The cosy confines of a caravan make it the perfect location for some old school pursuits if the weather's a bit iffy, but if you fancy something a bit more scintillating than I-Spy then make sure you pack a boardgame. Recently, we've been getting a bit partial to Linkee ([playlinkee.com](http://playlinkee.com)), a trivia-based game that's easy to understand, fun to play and, unlike Monopoly, doesn't last longer than a German opera. The premise is simple: pick up a card, each of which has four questions on it. When you've answered them all, you have to guess the link between the answers. If you do that, shout 'Linkee' and then you get to keep the card. The winner is the team that gets enough cards to spell out the name of the game. See? We told you it was easy. Hours of fun for all the family is guaranteed.



## 38 Do a night walk

We all like a nice walk, but there's something magical about doing it through the night while the rest of Britain sleeps – while raising money for a hugely worthy charity. That's the idea behind Cancer Research UK's Shine Night Walk in London on 24 September ([cancerresearchuk.org](http://cancerresearchuk.org)).

Participants can do either a half or full marathon distance, starting at Southwark and ending up in Billingsgate as the new day dawns. If you book early through the website it's only £35 to enter, and on here you'll also find handy hints on what sort of training you'll need to do to see you to the finishing line. Walkers who get a wriggle on should be able to complete the full distance in nine hours, while you're looking at about 13 if you take it a bit easier. Get yourself a good pair of walking shoes, bring your layers and kiss goodbye to any kip for the night.



## 39



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## 40 Fit a motormover

Let's be honest: we've all rocked up to a Caravan Club site, tried to reverse onto a pitch and made a complete hash of it – usually as several people sit there under their awnings watching your clottishness in action. Fortunately, you need never experience that red-cheeked shame again thanks to the ingenious invention of the motormover – a remote-controlled contraption that does the manoeuvring for you. Starting at around £500 brand new and busting well past the £1000 mark depending on how fancy you want to go, one key thing to remember is that the weight of a motormover has to be subtracted from the user payload (most movers are somewhere between 30 and 40kg). There's plenty more to consider like ground

clearance and which battery to use, but the Caravan Club's website ([caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk)) has plenty of handy advice from motormover owners that's sure to help you.



## 41 Skipton Sheep Day

If there's one thing your social calendar's lacking, it's the presence of sheep being allowed to race along a local town's high street. Well not anymore, people! Skipton, situated on the edge of the Dales, used to sell sheep on its main street for hundreds of years, and in order to doff their cap to the town's history, residents celebrate this woolly heritage by allowing sheep to race down the high street once a year ([sheepday.co.uk](http://sheepday.co.uk)). As well as this curious sight there are sheep-shearing demonstrations, fairground rides and loads of stalls where you can buy local produce and various crafty bits and bobs. It's free to get in and there's a great atmosphere, so put 10am-4pm on 3 July 2016 in your diary.

## Go off-grid and visit a Caravan Club Certificated Location

Everyone likes a nicely sized caravan site with all mod-cons laid out to make our lives easier, but sometimes it's nice to get a bit more intimate at a Certificated Location. One of the coolest ones we've been to is Keal Lodge, situated just outside the quaint Lincolnshire village of Deeping St James, near Peterborough. The winner of nine Caravan Club awards in the last 19 years, the site is close to Deeping's pubs and shops and charges just £15 a night for a pitch. As well as getting you more at one with nature, Keal Lodge's

location is close to loads of places of interest: 13 miles away is Burghley House ([burghley.co.uk](http://burghley.co.uk)), the location for the Burghley Horse Trials and well worth a visit anyway (it's £13.50 to get in, but the Garden of Surprises is nice, too). There's also the majestic Peterborough Cathedral, plus the nature-based expanse of Ferry Meadows, just a few miles away. Ferry Meadows has a brand new playground opening at Easter with loads of hand-carved wooden dens for the kids. Should be good.





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# 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016 supported by



## Go to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival

# 43

Since 1947, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival has been providing entertainment, laughter and food for thought in what has now become the largest arts festival in the world ([edfringe.com](http://edfringe.com)). It's

renowned for comedy, and if it's merriment you're after you won't be disappointed: comedians from Stephen Fry, Catherine Tate, Frank Skinner and Steve Coogan have all performed here down the years. But there's a lot more to the Fringe than just gags: last year saw 50,459 performances of 3314 shows in 313 venues across the city, covering a massive variety of subject matters, and don't be surprised if those numbers are beaten when the performers roll into town from 5-29 August this year. Of course, the event has become known for the crowning of its best joke, so keep your eyes peeled (ears pricked?) for that. Last year's winner was Darren Walsh with this pearler: "I just deleted all the German names off my phone. It's Hans-free."



# 44

## Lubricate your caravan

Lubricating your caravan is important – and we don't mean taking it to the pub. Leaving your van to stand all winter is unavoidable for those who don't tour during the chilly months, but this can lead to parts seizing. There are a few key areas to watch out for. The overrun assembly, attached to the A-frame, is worthy of vigilance because it's constantly moving in and out when you're towing – get yourself a general-purpose grease from a motoring shop and apply it to the nipple underneath the assembly. The jockey wheel and steadies are other areas to look after – with the latter, make sure you clean the area first before you apply the grease. It's a good idea to grease things like the handbrake lever and brake linkages at the start of the season, and also the tow hitch – but not inside where it touches the towball.

## Go on a cookery course

# 45

If you're looking to sharpen your culinary skills you won't do much better than the prestigious Leiths Cookery School in London ([leiths.com](http://leiths.com)), named after its food-expert founder, Prue Leith. It's become something of a Mecca for budding chefs, with courses on virtually every cuisine you can think of and technique classes on things like pasta, sauces, knife skills and even gluten-free cookery.

Many of the courses, like the mouth-watering 'How to cook the perfect roast beef', weigh in at around the £150 mark, but don't be in any doubt about how invaluable they are. Many people have passed through these hallowed doors, from Kate Middleton to Caravan's very own food expert, Monica Rivron. "Leiths is a fantastic cookery school – I loved it!" Monica told us. "The teachers are enthusiastic, supportive and extremely well organised. I still use the skills I learnt there every single day." If it's good enough for Monica, it's good enough for us.





# 50 GREAT THINGS TO DO IN 2016

## See us at the Malvern Caravan Show

For a weekend of ultimate caravanning fun among like-minded touring fans, you need to get a thick black marker pen and ring 30 September in your diary. That's when a few nights of camping fun kick off at the Malvern Caravan Show ([threecounties.co.uk/caravanshow](http://threecounties.co.uk/caravanshow)), costing a bargain £45 for a pitch for the whole show (parking and kids are both free). Set under the picturesque backdrop of the Malvern Hills, it'll be a great weekend – made even better by the fact that *Caravan* magazine will be there, too. Come along for a chinwag and tell us all the stuff you like and maybe some things you don't like about the mag (you can be brutal – we can take it). The evenings promise to be convivial, too, with loads of entertainment and live music. Just don't judge us on our dancing...



## Do a Caravan Club course

# 47

As we all know, towing a caravan is a fantastic pursuit that offers freedom and flexibility by the bucketload, but there are a few initially tricky things to get to grips with, like hitching and reversing. That's

why all of us caravanners, regardless of experience, could benefit from one of the Caravan Club's towing courses ([caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk)). They offer two different ones at 16 locations across the country: a Practical Caravanning Course that focuses on stuff like loading, hitching and safety (£165), or a Caravan Manoeuvring Course for perfecting tricky skills like reversing (£140).

Both courses are a day well spent, especially when you stop to consider that when we tow a caravan we're pulling a massive box that weighs about 1300kg.

What could possibly go wrong?





## Christmas in your caravan

Just think of all those people who only go touring in the warm summer months and then lock their caravans up over winter. The fools! Caravanning is a pursuit for any weather – especially now the standards and facilities of Caravan Club sites are so good – and many are now open throughout the year. You know what that means, don't you?

CHRISTMAS IN YOUR CARAVAN! Oh yes – there's nothing like booking into a picturesque site around the festive period and sorting your van with a tree, tinsel and a turkey so fat it requires the strength of the family to shoehorn it

into the oven. There's something both cosy and adventurous about Christmas caravanning, so log on to [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk) and check out the 56 sites that are now open all year round. It's worth noting that if you're doing this with children, you'll have to slightly adapt the story about Santa coming down the chimney...

# 48



## Go to a comedy club

Nothing beats a good chuckle and, while Britain is not exactly be a hotbed of talent in things like football and cricket, we've always been pretty good at making people laugh. Hence the continued popularity of London's Comedy Store ([thecomedystore.co.uk](http://thecomedystore.co.uk)), which has been providing hearty guffaws to visitors since 1979, and its sister venue in Manchester which has been going strong for 15 years. Some of the most famous names in chuckling have played at the Comedy Store down the years (Jack Whitehall, John Bishop and Jimmy Carr have popped in recently). Tickets are usually about £19 for an adult, or £13 for students and nurses.

Our favourite show is *The Cutting Edge* – topical stand-up hilarity that's previously starred the likes of Eddie Izzard, Bill Bailey and Jo Brand, happening every Tuesday at 8pm. Be warned: your stomach muscles will hurt the next day.

# 49



## Go to Ireland

With ferries from Liverpool to Belfast, Holyhead to Dublin or Fishguard to Rosslare, there are multiple ways to get to Ireland and explore ([ireland.com](http://ireland.com)) – and once you're there, you're in for a treat containing fabulous people, amazing history and some of the most eye-popping scenery in the whole of Europe. If it's the latter you're after you're spoilt for choice: Killarney National Park, the Cliffs of Moher and Sleat Head will leave you in no doubt that God was having a very good day when He created this lot. Dublin offers several places of significant historical interest, like the humbling Kilmainham Gaol (€6 to get in) and the Chester Beatty Library (loads of incredible books and artefacts, like a third-century Greek papyrus manuscript of the Gospel of Luke). And of course, no visit to Ireland would be complete without a swift pint of the brown stuff – get to the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin for a tour of the country's most famous brewery.

# 50





# Dazzled & confused



Playa de Berria near Argoños





Dizzied by mountain scenery and dazzled by a wealth of varied scenery, Helen Werin is on top of the world discovering hidden Spain



The Collegiate Church at Santillana del Mar

**O**ur campsite neighbours looked concerned as we returned to our pitch in mist and drizzle. “We’ve been thinking about you,” they said, gesturing at the dreary weather clouding the Cantabrian coast. They knew we’d got up early especially, to be the first in the queue for the cable car up Fuente Dé in the Picos de Europa – and that we’d been banking on a clear day to make the most of it.

Their sympathies were grossly misplaced. We were the ones who should have been feeling sorry for them. We’d been bathed in sunshine all day, though, of course, we were reluctant to tell them that! There was no cloying grey atmosphere in the spectacular Hermida Gorge, through which we’d had to drive carefully to get to Fuente Dé. Well, not until we came out of the deep, 20km (12½ mile) long limestone chasm at the end of a glorious day of exploration and were enveloped by it as we returned to the coast.

Our experience highlights the contrast between the far busier coastal region and the peaceful valleys and mountains inland – and not just weather-wise. We passed more super-fit cyclists than vehicles on the mountain roads.

The owner of Caravaning Oyambre, the first of our two sites in northern Spain, told us that the weather in the mountains can be completely different from that on the coast.

A couple of days later, the temperature rockets to 42°C in the mountains and on the coast!

It’s this incredibly lush landscape and particularly the beautiful mountains, that has





Gibaja in the Asón Valley

drawn us to what is so aptly called 'Green Spain'. Add to that some of the best caves for prehistoric art in the world, many of which can be visited for a very reasonable sum, and more than 60 beaches and medieval villages, their cobbled streets lined with balconied houses bearing family crests.

What thrills me most are the hairpin bends up and down the mountains, arriving at breathtaking viewpoints. It's like being on top of the world – and being the only people left, at that. It's also slightly unnerving in parts. I'm the one sitting in the back seat with my stomach churning from all the twists and turns. I admit to being just a bit worried about the dizzying drops as we negotiate every bend. But, let me tell you, the slight apprehension is well worth it for the views.

As someone who doesn't 'do' flat, I adore Cantabria's dramatic landscape, but my senses are confused. The steep hillsides sprinkled with tiny, terracotta-tiled crofts are like the Swiss Alps. The cows even wear bells.

#### WRITTEN BY



**HELEN WERIN**

Helen discovers the delights of a little-explored region of Spain, reachable in just 20 hours from the UK.

Photos Robin Weaver

At times, the scenery reminds me of Wales. At others, it's very like the Lake District. Around yet another corner it could be the Yorkshire Dales that instantly springs to mind. As we leave Arredondo, in the Asón valley, the atmosphere becomes Australian. We ride the switchback of the CA261 upwards through the bluish haze and distinctive scent of gum trees. On the 815m (2674ft) pass of Alto de El Caracol, between the Pisueña and Miera valleys, I could be in Wensleydale, with its dry stone walls. Heading south on the CA262 to Vega de Pas, we climb

to 720m (2362ft) at Puerto de la Braguía, through even more sharp bends. Deep down in the Pas valley, I'm reminded of north Wales. At Puerto de Alisas (674m/2211ft), I turn away from the coastal spectacle spread before me to see that one of the mountains behind looks just like Pen y Fan, the highest point in the Brecon Beacons.

And what a coast! Cantabria's beaches vary from dune-backed expanses to tiny coves and those lapping lagoons, like Playa de Ris, near our second pitch at Noja. To the east, Noja beach is dotted with curiously-shaped rock



The bell tower at Arredondo



The River Deva flows through the picturesque town of Potes





TOP Sobrellano Palace, Comillas

ABOVE San Vicente de la Barquera

RIGHT A quiet corner in Limpias



formations. One of the lingering memories of this trip will be walking along these sands in the evenings, watching as the last spit of land to the largest of these rock formations slowly disappears under the water. As the sun begins to set we join the coastal path and wander past an artillery bastion, before coming down to the gorgeous Trengandín beach. Our appetite is whetted for further

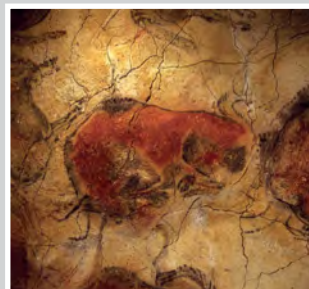
#### FIND OUT MORE

- ▶ [spain.info](http://spain.info)
- ▶ [turismodecantabria.com](http://turismodecantabria.com)
- ▶ [cantur.com](http://cantur.com)



Comillas beach

## IF IT'S WET...



Cave painting at Altamira Cave

### TAKE COVER IN CAVES

Cantabria is the richest region in the world for archaeological sites from the Upper Paleolithic period. Book cave visits at least one day ahead (except for Altamira). Worth a visit for their paintings are Hornos de la Peña at San Felices de Buelna, Covalanas at Ramales de la Victoria, and El Pendo at Escobedo de Camargo. At Monte Castillo, El Castillo is the more spectacular; Las Monedas is fascinating for its stalactites and stalagmites. The Museum of Altamira (with English translation) has activities for children. For cave visits (except Altamira) call to book (in Spain) 942 598 425. For information in English, visit: [cuevas.culturadecantabria.com/english/hornos.asp](http://cuevas.culturadecantabria.com/english/hornos.asp)



### EXPLORE QUIANT TOWNS

Comillas is home to architect Antoni Gaudí's El Capricho ([elcaprichodegaudi.com](http://elcaprichodegaudi.com)), a green and gold-tiled 'folly' covered in sunflowers. Next door is the Sobrellano Palace ([centros.culturadecantabria.com](http://centros.culturadecantabria.com)) with an eclectic style of mostly Neo-Gothic, but with Venetian and Muslim influences. Santillana del Mar ([www.santillanadelmarturismo.com](http://www.santillanadelmarturismo.com)) is pretty and popular with tourists, with cobbled streets of medieval buildings, many with coats of arms on their façades. Visit the 12th century Romanesque church of Santa Juliana and the Museo de la Tortura, which displays grim instruments used by the Inquisition.

Antoni Gaudí's El Capricho at Comillas



[caravanmagazine.co.uk](http://caravanmagazine.co.uk)



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The ancient stone bridge across the Miera river at Liérganes

## WHAT ELSE TO DO

### GET THE BIKES OUT

There are two Vías Verdes (green ways) along old rail tracks. Via Verde del Pas (34km/21 miles) runs from El Astillero, in Santander, to Puente Viesgo and up the Pas valley ([www.viasverdes.com](http://www.viasverdes.com)). There are no designated cycle routes around Noja, although it's pleasant to cycle around the nature reserve behind the Playa Joyel site. As Playa Joyel covers such a large area, children love cycling around the site itself, which has a speed limit for other vehicles.



### CABÁRCENO NATURE PARK

Here you can get incredibly close to animals such as giraffes living in semi-freedom, though you look down from a safe position at lions and brown bears! More than 120 species from five continents roam here. This was an open-cast mining area. It has been developed with 20km (12½ miles) of roads crossing the park, leading visitors to parking areas dotted across the attractive landscape from which they can then walk a short distance to see the inhabitants. There are also lakes, picnic spots and viewpoints, places to eat, gift shops and a playground ([parquedecabarceno.com](http://parquedecabarceno.com)).



looming over Santana's marshes. We are, by now, wilting in very high temperatures, so we pass on the chance to climb up and down the 760 or so vertiginous-looking steps to the Caballo lighthouse.

At Berria we have been somewhat amused by the sight of dozens of bare-chested mature men constantly walking up and down the vast beach with their arms spread wide. I'm guessing that it's to get an even tan.

Our cable car ride up Fuente Dé (1850m/6069ft) is as exciting as all the tourist brochures have promised. Lots of well-equipped hikers are setting off for the path snaking up it. My excuse is that our youngest daughter, Sophie, is with us. She loves climbing and hiking, but perhaps not one of the mighty picos on this occasion. We glide up Fuente Dé, watching the

## GETTING THERE

Brittany Ferries offers routes from Portsmouth to Santander or Bilbao and from Plymouth to Santander. [brittany-ferries.co.uk](http://brittany-ferries.co.uk)

vehicles in the car park below dwindle to a cluster of dots. For the last few metres our little cage skims so close to the cliff face that I half-expect to hear a horrible scraping noise. But we don't and we get out at the top, with me feeling a little shaky because I don't like sudden drops, only for Sophie to run off to a lookout point. I will not step on it after her. Only a metal grid stands between her and the valley far, far below.

There's a shuttle service to carry those unwilling or unable to walk the gritty track towards the Hotel Áliva (3.5km/2 miles), which has a great reputation for its local specialities. I'm pleased that we've brought thick fleeces. Despite the heat of the valley, it's considerably cooler up here. Sophie keeps darting off the path to dive into deep pockets of snow.

Playa de Ris, Noja





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## WHERE TO STAY



### ♦ CARAVANING OYAMBRE

Pena Gerra, Los Llaos, San Vicente de la Barquera, Cantabria, Spain  
T 00 34 942 711461

W [oyambre.com](http://oyambre.com)

**Open:** mid-March to late-September

Very welcoming 180-pitch site set in Oyambre National Park, midway between Comillas and San Vicente de la Barquera. Lovely views of the Picos and 15 minutes' walk from a great beach. Level, grassy pitches organised along terraces, all with 10-amp electrical connection. Spotlessly clean facilities, including laundry. Pool, playground, sports court, fresh bread and small grocery, plus currency exchange. Bar and excellent, great-value restaurant. English spoken. Dogs are welcome.

**Suitable for** foodies; I can heartily recommend the paella from the site restaurant

**Prices** (per night including two adults) from about £20



### ♦ CAMPING PLAYA JOYEL

Playa de Ris, 39180 Noja, Cantabria, Spain

T 00 34 942 630081

W [playajoyel.com](http://playajoyel.com)

W [campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/travelabroad](http://campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/travelabroad)

**Open:** mid-March to end-September

High standard and very large 900-pitch site with full facilities, including a supermarket, restaurant, tennis courts, table tennis tables, sports field, outdoor exercise course, play areas and an on-site animal park (extra charge). Grassy, level pitches are mostly shaded. We were pitched at the back of the site close to the playing field, which was peaceful and quiet. In July and August there is a takeaway, disco, children's club and ice cream kiosk. English spoken.

**Suitable for** beach lovers. This site has direct access to a great beach.

**Prices** (per night including two adults): from about £23.35-£39.70 (when booked through the Camping and Caravanning Club's European Travel Service).



Helen Werin and daughter, Sophie, walking in the Picos de Europa



Imagine the views from the cable car at Fuente Dé

I'm intrigued by tiny wildflowers growing on the rocks. There are so many different types in such a small area. I'm told that this is also a haven for alpine birds. What a shame I didn't bring my binoculars.

Cantabria's most renowned sights are underground. It has more than 6500 caverns and some of the world's best examples of Paleolithic art. We'd been a bit unsure about visiting Altamira Cave – known as the Sistine Chapel of Prehistoric Art – because it is closed to the public. Visitors walk through a replica alongside the museum. But we are so glad that we did. The replica is incredibly realistic; the rock art on the ceiling is astonishing. There's a wild goat painted here, deer, hind and horses there and several different images of bison. Much to Sophie's surprise, there's also a hand. We're told that hand images would have been made by blowing a dye and water mix through hollow tubes of bone while keeping the hand pressed against the wall. We are definitely not disappointed. Nor are we surprised to learn that, when Altamira was discovered in 1879,





the artists' genius and the brilliance of the image of the bison's head led to doubts about whether the work was genuine.

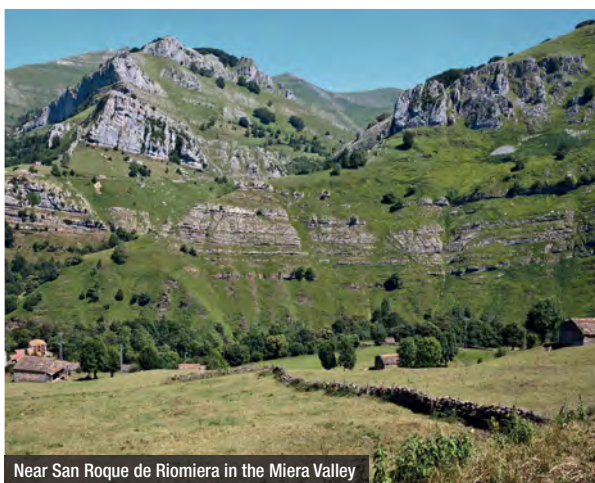
The museum is informative, educational and fun. Alongside cabinets containing implements people used to hunt, fish, eat and adorn themselves with, are children's cartoons showing the social life of our ancestors. Other exhibits explain how modern-day archaeologists work and the tools and methods that they use. We leave in awe of what we've just seen.

Visits to other caves are equally fascinating. At El Soplao, a train takes us to grottoes filled with astounding geological formations. Among the labyrinth of caves inside the cone-shaped hill of Monte Castillo at Puente de Viesgo is El Castillo, said to have the most ancient Paleolithic art in the world. It's amazing, as much for its artistic flair as the history.

At Camping Oyambre, our neighbour shows me pictures of unbelievably steep zig-zag paths up the Picos which he plans to climb. He spends his evenings gazing wistfully at the mountains.



El Soplao Cave



Near San Roque de Riomiera in the Miera Valley

At Playa Joyel, I learn from some of our multi-national fellow campers and caravanners that they have rarely ventured beyond the site gates. I'm shocked. Cantabria's been so easy to get to and full of one excitement and thrill after another for us.

A big part of its appeal has been the contrast between the busy coast during our high-season visit and the serene interior. It's that feeling of escaping, within a very short distance, to a tranquil parallel universe – albeit one with a tuneful accompaniment of cow bells!



The Rio Pas flows through a dramatic gorge at Puente Viesgo

## WHERE TO STAY



### CAMPING COMILLAS

Calle de Manuel Noriega, 39520  
Comillas T00 34 942 720074  
W [campingcomillas.com](http://campingcomillas.com)

Open: 1 June – 30 September and Easter (weather permitting)

Very close to a good beach and just five minutes' walk from the centre of Comillas. Well placed for exploring Santillana del Mar, caves and natural parks. Facilities include laundry, café, playground, wi-fi around bar and grocery shop. Dogs welcome.

**Suitable for** golfers; 9-hole course nearby

**Prices** (per night including two adults): from about £21



### LA PAZ CAMPING

Playa de Vidiago, 33597 Llanes,  
Asturias T 00 34 985 411235  
W [campinglapaz.com](http://campinglapaz.com)

W [campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/travelabroad](http://campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/travelabroad)

Open: late-March to early-October

Popular beach-side site convenient for western Cantabria and Picos de Europa National Park. Access down steep, winding narrow road. English spoken. Dogs welcome.

**Suitable for** Visiting off season when there's more space.

**Prices** (per night including two adults – when booked through C&CC's European Travel Service) from £27.95



# Dunnet Bay

## and the Orkney Islands



▼ Visit Scotland & Scottish Viewpoint, P. Tomkins

Fascinating Skara Brae is located on the Bay of Skail in the Orkneys





**Susie Kearley is still on her grand tour of Scotland, accompanied by hubby, Vic, and more rain than you can shake a haggis at**



fter a few wonderful days in Durness, we travel east, along the narrow Highland roads, towards John O'Groats, and finally reach Dunnet Bay Caravan Club site at about 1.30pm. Perfect timing for a quick bite to eat before going to explore the bay, with its long, sandy beaches.

There's a council-run Tourist Information Centre above the campsite office – a lovely little facility with a variety of leaflets, a video of local attractions, and a collection of taxidermy animals representing the wildlife on Dunnet Bay and Dunnet Head.







Dunnet Bay



Dunnet Head lighthouse

## DUNNET HEAD

We explore the long, sandy bay, adjacent to the campsite, and then set off to Dunnet Head, five miles away. It's the most northerly point on the Scottish mainland. The cliffs are home to a wide variety of birdlife including fulmars, guillemots, kittiwakes, puffins and razorbills. There are abandoned WWII huts on the peninsula; it's very blustery and easy to imagine how lonely it must have felt for soldiers posted here during the war. There's a viewing point offering a fantastic panorama of the coast and, if it wasn't blowing a gale, we'd stay longer!



WRITTEN BY



**SUSIE KEARLEY**

No... Susie hasn't converted! She's merely wearing protection in Scotland. Safe 'sects – so to speak.

### FACT FILE

► **DUNNET HEAD**

**W** [walkhighlands.co.uk/sutherland/dunnet-head.shtml](http://walkhighlands.co.uk/sutherland/dunnet-head.shtml)

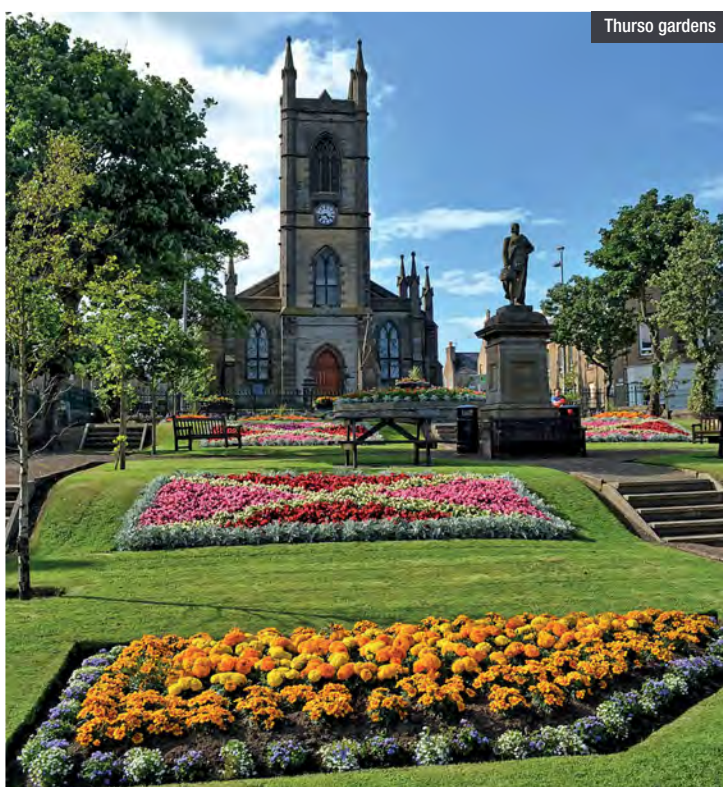
► **CAITHNESS HORIZONS**

High Street, Thurso, Caithness KW14 8DD  
**T** 01847 896508  
**W** [caithnesshorizons.co.uk](http://caithnesshorizons.co.uk)

## THURSO

We visit Thurso and come across the Horizon Museum and Visitor Centre, offering free admission. The museum houses exhibitions on the Viking invasion, the Dounreay power station, life in Caithness, and the work of some local artists. The theatre on the top floor is well worth a visit as it runs an inspiring film about the

local area which might help you identify things you'd like to see and do while you're here. The range of exhibits is diverse enough that there's something to appeal to most people, and there's also a café and a shop.



Thurso gardens



# DISASTER ON THE CAMPSITE

Back at Dunnet Bay Caravan Club site, we prepare for the days ahead and, at about 10pm, I go to have a shower. The campsite has lovely wash facilities with temperature-controlled showers, a continual flow of water, and even control over the power of the flow. These are probably the best campsite showers we've experienced to date. Everything is sparkling clean, modern and in great condition.

As I come out of the shower, I realise there's been an accident – a car has come off the road and driven through the fence, missing a caravan by just a few feet. The car is on its roof and paramedics are attending to the injured passengers. The fire brigade is trying to move the car. A small crowd of onlookers has gathered and I figure the best thing I can do is stay out of the way.

## DAY TWO



# CARNAGE

In the morning, I go to assess the carnage. The mangled car is collected by a tractor at 7.30am, and the fence is in bits where the vehicle hit it with a sliding glance and took out post after post, travelling about 50 yards, before coming to a stop inside the caravan park.

The nearest caravan to the crash site has a small hole in its body, caused by flying shrapnel. The owner bought the caravan new, five months earlier, for £24,000. He's not impressed.

No one on the campsite was hurt but the people in the nearest caravan were pretty shaken up – their bed was just five feet from where the car finally stopped.

Susie at the John O'Groats Ferry pick up point



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T 01955 611353

W jogferry.co.uk

At 7.45am, we head off to join the Maxi Day Tour of the Orkney Islands with John O'Groats Ferries. We arrive at John O'Groats by 8.15am to collect our tickets and board the ferry.

It's a 40-minute cruise across the Pentland Firth to South Ronaldsay, where a fleet of luxury coaches await our arrival. We board one with leather seats, on-board facilities and a jovial driver called Stuart. Then we set off, hearing about the Royal Navy base that once stood on Orkney, and the tactics

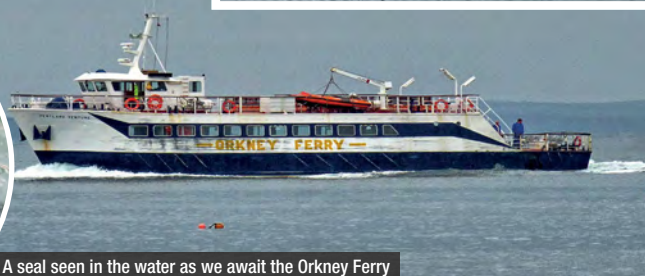
used to keep German submarines out of Scapa Flow.

The Royal Navy tried barricading some of the gaps between small islands with sunken ships, but the German submarines still managed to find a way in so, eventually, they created great concrete blockades, called Churchill Barriers, between the islands. Today, you can see the sunken ships and a road runs across the Barriers, connecting the islands.

Sunken ships weren't enough to block German submarines



A seal seen in the water as we await the Orkney Ferry



Visit Scotland & Scottish Viewpoint P Tomkins



carvanmagazine.co.uk



/caravanmag



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February 2016 Caravan 67



## STROMNESS

We pass across the Churchill Barriers to Burray island and then onto the Orkney mainland. The coach takes us to Stromness for lunch, where you can buy Orkney's award-winning ice creams which, according to the coach driver, are 1000 calories per lick, but worth it. We try some rum and raisin ice cream and it's very tasty. Stromness has narrow, cobbled streets shared by cars and pedestrians alike, some quaint little shops, and a very busy harbour.



## RING OF BRODGAR



Visit Scotland & Scottish Viewpoint P Tomkins

Our next destination is the Ring of Brodgar, which is the third-largest stone circle in the British Isles and is considered to be among the greatest, alongside Avebury and Stonehenge. The structure is estimated to be between 4000 and 4500 years old, but there has been little excavation at the site, so not much is known about its history.

The skies were drizzly at Skara Brae but now it's raining heavily – such a shame because these outdoor activities would be much nicer in dry weather! After a quick run around in the rain, we return to the coach and continue onward to the Standing Stones of Stenness.

## SKARA BRAE

Boarding the coach again, we continue to Skara Brae – the remains of a Stone Age village. It's thoroughly enjoyable, with a fascinating exhibition room, an introductory film, and a Stone Age house reconstruction. Inside the exhibition rooms are tools and other archaeological finds, such as bone jewellery and carved stones, many of which have been found on Orkney.

The house reconstruction is very helpful because, when we go outside to see the remains of the village, the ruins make sense – we can identify the sleeping areas, the dresser, the cupboards and the underground passages between the houses. The whole village was constructed below ground, with timber roofs and moss or grass on top. Clever Stone-Age stuff!

Skara Brae is the best-preserved prehistoric village in western Europe. It provides a fascinating insight into the lives of

prehistoric people who we traditionally think of as living in caves. They created something much more complex here in the Highlands. The village was uncovered by a storm in 1850 and today it offers visitors the chance to explore what life was like in Orkney about 5000 years ago.

William Graham Watt, the 7th Laird of Breckness, discovered the village. His house was adjacent to the plot, so he converted his dining room into a museum to display artefacts uncovered from the site's excavation. It remained a museum until 1930, when the 11th Laird handed the collection to the Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. We walk through a dining room, library, the main hall, sitting room, drawing room and bedrooms. An hour-and-a-half to explore is barely enough time to take everything in, and we have to rush.



### FACT FILE

▶ **STROMNESS**  
W [stromnessorkney.com](http://stromnessorkney.com)

▶ **SKARA BRAE**  
W [historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://historic-scotland.gov.uk)



Susie at the Ring of Brodgar





## THE AL-KO AAA PREMIUM BRAKE

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The Orkney countryside on our journey



Our coach



## ITALIAN CHURCH

This little church began life as a Nissan hut during World War II, when it was given to Italian prisoners of war as their church building. They plastered it, decorated it, and created stained-glass windows. Everything was obtained by begging, borrowing and perhaps a little stealing, as they had no money or resources to make improvements.

The finished church is a stunning creation that still looks fine today. The paintings inside use a 3D effect and the painted bricks look real. The ceiling is a work of art, and the altar, with paintings of Mary, Jesus and angels, is particularly beautiful.

The prisoners put black tape on painted glass to give the appearance of stained glass windows. At the end of the war, some of the Italians liked living on the island so much that they didn't want to go home, but they were illegal immigrants at that time, so had to return to Italy. Join the tour and you might hear the love story associated with an iron heart in the altar.

We return to the ferry pick-up point for the 45-minute journey to John O'Groats. Back at the site we try to dry our clothes.

## STANDING STONES OF STENNNESS

This monument is one of the earliest stone circles in Britain. It was designed to have 12 standing stones, but it's thought that only 10 or 11 were ever erected. Now, only four remain after the landowner blew the rest up in 1814, because he didn't like tourists on his land. The people of Orkney rallied round and took the land from him – he wasn't a true Orkneyan anyway. They preserved

the land, and the remaining stones, for the future.

We run out into the pouring rain, snap a few photos, and return to the coach. We're now feeling wet and frustrated by the weather. It transpires that Vic has waterproofs in his rucksack, but doesn't think to mention it until after my clothes are soaked through, so I remove the worst of my wet clothing and don waterproofs for the rest of the day.



The Standing Stones of Stenness

### FACT FILE

#### STANDING STONES OF STENNNESS

**W** [orkneyjar.com/history/standingstones](http://orkneyjar.com/history/standingstones)

#### ITALIAN CHURCH

**W** [visitscotland.com/info/see-do/the-italian-chapel](http://visitscotland.com/info/see-do/the-italian-chapel)

#### THE ORKNEY MUSEUM, KIRKWALL

**W** [orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/orkney-museum.htm](http://orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/orkney-museum.htm)

#### St Magnus Cathedral

**W** [stmagnus.org](http://stmagnus.org)





# KIRKWALL

Our next stop is Kirkwall, where we have an hour-and-a-half to look around in heavy rain. We head straight for The Orkney Museum. It's interesting, but just as we get to the 19th and 20th century galleries, which look most appealing, we're asked to leave because they're closing. It's only 4.50pm! So, we exit onto the flooded streets of Kirkwall and dart over the road to the imposing St Magnus Cathedral.

Inside, beautiful Gothic and Romanesque architecture towers above us. Vic particularly likes the red brick. I admire the wood carvings. After taking in the delights of vaulted ceilings, stained-glass windows, and remarkable craftsmanship, we leave the cathedral and dive into a few gift shops. Even the local Poundland is alluring, anything to stay dry! We walk back in the incessant rain to the harbour, only



St. Magnus Cathedral at Kirkwall

to discover that we're lost! The coach leaves in 10 minutes and it's still raining.

Fortunately, it doesn't take us long to work out where we need to be and we board the coach for our last destination: the Italian Church.

## DAY THREE

### WICK



The sun is shining as we awake on our last day at the Dunnet Bay site. We really could have done with weather like this yesterday! We pack up and tow the caravan to Wick, a quiet fishing village, 16 miles south of John O'Groats. We park up on the side of the road, and have a quick look around the pretty village. There's a heritage centre, a lovely harbour, the River Wick, some shops, and a war memorial. After a mooch around the harbour we continue our journey south.

We intend to stop at the Whalgie Steps near Wick – 365 steps onto the beach. They're something of a tourist attraction, but we somehow miss the turning off the coastal road and, by the time we realise, we're miles away with a caravan in tow, so we give them a miss. Another place worth exploring

out that way, is the Grey Cairns of Camster. These ancient burial chambers are in remarkable condition, but the narrow access road is unsuitable for larger vehicles like caravans, so we keep heading south.

At last we arrive at Grannie's Heilan' Hame Holiday Park, just outside Dornoch, completely unaware of what lies in store for the night ahead... but that's another story.



Susie and caravan in Wick

## WHERE WE STAYED

► **DUNNET BAY CARAVAN CLUB SITE**  
Dunnet, Thurso, Highland  
KW14 8XD T 01847 821319  
W [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk)



Beautifully kept, with the best site showers I've experienced. Stunning location with 56 pitches, disabled facilities and dogs welcome. Limited reception opening hours mean you may have to wait for a washroom key, depending on arrival time.

## WHERE ELSE TO STAY

► **THURSO BAY CAMPING & CARAVAN PARK**  
Smith Terrace, Scrabster Road  
Thurso KW14 7JY  
T 01847 892244  
W [thursobaycamping.co.uk](http://thursobaycamping.co.uk)



Located on the coast in Thurso, it has 47 pitches with electric hook-up, shower and toilet block, dishwashing facilities, and pets are welcome. It is well located for the attractions of Thurso.

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## 1 PENRITH TROUTBECK CAMPING & CARAVANNING CLUB SITE

For those looking to explore Keswick and Derwent water, this Club site makes a good choice, as access to these tourist hotspots is easy and a local bus network is

handy. The site is surrounded by countryside with fell views and, for

walkers, Blencathra and Sharp Edge are easily accessible. A less strenuous stroll is the half-hour walk to the White Horse Inn in Scales.

If you want to cook for yourself then the on-site licensed shop sells free range eggs, meat, baked goods and real ales. There are also weekly farmers' markets locally.

The Sea-to-Sea cycleway passes



## SITE DETAILS

**TROUTBECK C&CC**  
Hutton Moor End,  
Troutbeck, Penrith,  
Cumbria CA11 0SX  
**T** 01768 779149

**W** [campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk](http://campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk)

**OPEN** 11 Mar – 6 Nov

**PRICE** From £19.80  
(2 adults, pitch, electric)

by the site and another popular mountain bike route, the Old Coach Road, has some splendid views of Blencathra and Skiddaw. An activity centre in Troutbeck offers quad bikes, horse riding, archery and karting, while Ullswater has sandy beaches, sailing, kayaking and windsurfing.

Pitches on site are spacious and are complemented by good toilet and shower areas, a laundry and facilities for the disabled.







TOP

ten

LAKE DISTRICT  
SITES  
FOR SIGHTSEEING

## ULLSWATER THE QUIET SITE

We are big fans of this site. First, for its location – a secluded position among the fells that overlook Ullswater and, secondly, for its unique, rustic on-site bar. It's warm, inviting, and the perfect place to relax after a day exploring the Lakes. The barn was converted into a bar in the 1950s. There are cushioned beer kegs for chairs and a roaring open fire. There's also a soft play area and games room. The bar sells a selection of local ales including the site's own brew, The Quiet Pint, which is available to buy in the site shop, too.

The Quiet Site is situated between Little Mell Fell and Ullswater, with views to Helvellyn. All of the pitches are terraced and are a mix of grass and pea gravel. Facilities include toilets and

### SITE DETAILS

**THE QUIET SITE**  
Ullswater CA11 0LS  
**T** 07768 727016  
**W** [thequietsite.co.uk](http://thequietsite.co.uk)  
**OPEN** All year  
**PRICE** From £15 (2 adults, pitch, electric)



showers, a family shower room, dishwashing, a laundry, children's play area, well-stocked shop and free wi-fi.

There are many beautiful walks that you can start from right outside the site, including one to the stunning NT Aira Force waterfall (maps available), and Penrith is only seven miles away.







## KESWICK KESWICK CAMPING & CARAVANNING CLUB SITE

### SITE DETAILS

**KESWICK C&CC**  
Crow Park Road,  
Keswick, Cumbria  
CA12 5EP  
**T** 01768 772392  
**W** [campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk](http://campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk)  
**OPEN** 18 February –  
2 January 2017  
**PRICE** From £21.20  
(2 adults, pitch, electric)



This site is great for active people. Set on the shores of Derwent water it boasts a prime location with views extending over the lake and to the hills beyond. This stretch of water is popular for canoeing and kayaking and you can launch from site for a small charge. You can take your pick from numerous lake and hillside tracks that can be explored on foot or on two wheels. For more adventurous walkers, Skiddaw, the fourth highest mountain in England, is easily reached.

For a more relaxed pace of life, try fishing on the lake. Hire a boat from one of the marinas and head out into the lake's centre to catch pike, bream and trout. Passenger boats also operate around the lake with several drop-off points. Keswick town is within walking distance and offers provisions, outdoor gear, and places to eat and drink. Also, less than a couple of miles east of Keswick, you'll find the Neolithic Castlerigg Stone Circle, overlooking the Thirlmere Valley.

## HOLMROOK SHEPHERDS VIEWS HOLIDAYS

This site may not technically be within the Lake District National Park but it occupies a great location – close to both the Lakeland mountains and the coast, but away from the tourist crowds of the more traditional Lake District. The campsite's location is ideal for keen cyclists as it is near the start of Hadrian's Cycleway which runs from Ravenglass to South Shields and passes by the site entrance. There are also plenty of cycle routes in the local area for all abilities, from country lanes to extreme mountain biking.

There is a selection of hardstanding and fully serviced pitches for tourers, with the backdrop of the Wasdale hills and valley. Local shops and facilities can be found just over a mile away at Seascale. Shepherds Views' facilities include electric hook-ups, a unisex facility building with privacy cubicles, toilets and showers, along with a wetroom for the disabled and a washing-up area.

### SITE DETAILS

**SHEPHERDS VIEWS**  
Holmrook, Ravenglass,  
Cumbria CA19 1XU  
**T** 01946 729907  
**W** [shepherdsviews.co.uk](http://shepherdsviews.co.uk)  
**OPEN** 1 March – 31  
October)  
**PRICE** From £18.00  
(2 adults, pitch, electric)





TOP  
**ten**  
LAKE DISTRICT  
SITES  
FOR SIGHTSEEING

5



## 7 KENDAL HIGH THORN FARM

High Thorn Farm is a small, family-run enterprise, occupying an enviable position nestled between the beautiful Lake District National Park and the sweeping Howgills. The site includes ponds, fields, meadows and uninterrupted views of the peaceful countryside.

The touring area consists of just four hardstanding pitches with electric, surrounded by trees and fields with uninterrupted lake views. Facilities at the lake have been kept basic to protect the ecological balance. Therefore, there's just a toilet in the way of facilities but you will be rewarded with peace, and an abundance of wildlife. For an extra charge you can enjoy the site's sheltered coarse fishing lake.

The farm is on the edge of the Lake District National Park, yet away from the main busy tourist atmosphere. There are many walks available on the adjoining mountains and moors, along with golf, horse riding and fine dining all nearby.



### SITE DETAILS

**HIGH THORN FARM**  
Selside, Kendal LA8 9JX  
**T** 01539 823295  
**W** [highthorn-farm.com](http://highthorn-farm.com)  
**OPEN** All year  
**PRICE** £10 (2 adults,  
pitch, electric)





## KESWICK CASTLERIGG HALL CARAVAN & CAMPING PARK

If you want to be within two miles of the bustling market town of Keswick, yet still be surrounded by the gorgeous Lakeland scenery, then Castlerigg Hall is the place to be. It's just one-and-a-half miles to the town centre, set in an elevated position, with panoramic views of Derwent water and Bassenthwaite Lake, with a backdrop of the surrounding fells.

The site caters for families and couples only, with hardstanding

### SITE DETAILS

**CASTLERIGG HALL**  
Keswick, Cumbria  
CA12 4TE

**T** 01768 774499

**W** castlerigg.co.uk

**OPEN** 9 Mar – 6 Nov

**PRICE** From £19.75  
(2 adults, pitch, electric)

touring pitches set on mainly level terraces. Some have lake views, others are set among trees and hedges. Choose from hook-up only, fully serviced and ones with guaranteed lake view.

The on-site restaurant and tea room, with outside balcony, is highly recommended and serves breakfasts and evening meals. For dog owners, there is plenty of outdoor space, a dog exercise area and a dedicated dog wash.



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## WINDERMERE PARK CLIFFE CAMPING & CARAVAN ESTATE



A tranquil retreat at the heart of the Lake District, close to Bowness-on-Windermere, in 25 acres of picturesque countryside. There's lots to do around Park

Cliffe, especially in the towns of Bowness and Windermere – walkers, climbers and watersports enthusiasts will be more than happy here. Attractions include

### SITE DETAILS

**PARK CLIFFE CAMPING & CARAVAN ESTATE**  
Birks Road,  
Windermere, Cumbria  
LA23 3PG

**T** 01539 531344

**W** parkcliffe.co.uk

**OPEN** 1 March –  
13 November

**PRICE** From £27 (2  
adults, pitch, electric)

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the Keswick Pencil Museum, Go Ape at Grizedale Forest, the Laurel & Hardy Museum and the Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway. Reception has a leaflet of rainy day ideas.

Touring pitches are hardstanding with electric; most have views of Moor How, a small hill offering amazing views over Lake Windermere, accessed through the children's playground at the back of the site. Facilities include heated toilets and showers, private bathrooms for hire, a licensed shop, and a bar and restaurant (open daily in high season, weekends in low season).

6

## GRANGE-OVER-SANDS MEATHOP FELL CARAVAN CLUB SITE

This peaceful Club site is located close to Grange-over-Sands which is a pretty seaside resort in the southern Lake District. The touring area is thoughtfully laid out with

separate pitching areas divided by shrubs and grass. There are 116 pitches, of which 102 are hardstanding. There are toilets, a

laundry, wi-fi and a motorhome service point all on site.

Meathop Fell is well-situated for exploring the southern Lakes and the local towns of Cartmel, Ambleside and Hawkshead.

The coast is within five miles, there's golf available nearby and a handy hotel/bar is five minutes' walk away.

If you're not sure where to begin when



### SITE DETAILS

**MEATHOP FELL  
CARAVAN CLUB SITE**  
Grange-over-Sands,  
Cumbria LA11 6RB

**T** 01539 532912

**W** caravanclub.co.uk

**OPEN** All year

**PRICE** From £17.50  
(2 adults, pitch, electric)

exploring the Lakes then Brockhole, the National Park Visitor Centre, is a good place to start as it holds an enormous collection of information, books and audio/visual material about the Lakes under one roof.

The entire area is a walkers' paradise with its scenic beauty. The site also gives you easy access to fun water activities at Windermere plus sailing, canoeing and windsurfing at Coniston.





## PATTERDALE SYKESIDE CAMPING PARK

Sykeside is an inspiring location for a Lake District holiday, offering stunning views in the heart of the Dovedale Valley. Brotherswater is nearby and virtually all of Lakeland is easily accessible. The site is situated at the northern foot of the famous Kirkstone Pass (the highest pass in the Lakes open to traffic), just off the A592 (don't tow over it, if possible). The Brotherswater Inn on site serves local produce, including breakfasts, with stunning views of Dove Crag. In summer, the Barn End Bar is open on select evenings, serving food and drink, with extensive outside seating.

The site's great for dog owners, as four-legged friends are welcome in both bars and the shop. With 30+ walks starting from Sykeside, you can tire your pooch out, too. Walks range from a leisurely stroll

### SITE DETAILS

**SYKESIDE CAMPING**  
Brotherswater,  
Patterdale CA11 0NZ  
**T** 01768 482239  
**W** sykeside.co.uk  
**OPEN** All year  
**PRICE** From £17.50  
(2 adults, pitch, electric)



around Brotherswater to the more challenging walks over fells. The impressive waterfall at Aira Force is 15 minutes' drive away. Other nearby attractions include Castlerigg Stone Circle, Dalemmain House and Gardens, and the magnificent lake at Windermere.

There's also a Caravan Club members-only CL here, with five pitches for caravans. Facilities for both include toilets and showers, a laundry and drying room, a dish-washing area, a shop, and decent wi-fi in the pub.



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## CONISTON CONISTON PARK COPPICE CARAVAN CLUB SITE

This might seem a large Club site with its 252 hardstanding pitches, but with pretty landscaping, set in wooded areas and surrounded by trees, you do feel pretty secluded. Coniston Park Coppice is located in 63 acres of National Trust woodland, close to Coniston Water. A short walk of 400 yards will bring you to the lakeside and a launching point for dinghies, windsurfing and canoeing.

### SITE DETAILS

**CONISTON PARK CC SITE**  
Park Gate, Coniston,  
Cumbria LA21 8LA  
**T** 01539 441555  
**W** caravanclub.co.uk  
**OPEN** All year  
**PRICE** From £17.30  
(2 adults, pitch, electric)



TOP

**ten**  
LAKE DISTRICT  
SITES  
FOR SIGHTSEEING

10



Coniston Pier is just one mile away and offers steamboat rides on the Coniston Gondola, plus boat hire.

There are several cafés and pubs within walking distance, with the Ship Inn being both child and dog friendly. You can easily walk or cycle into Coniston village (about a 15-minute bike ride). This Club site is an excellently placed central point for exploring the whole National Park – the walking is matchless and birdwatchers particularly will not be disappointed, especially in Grizedale Forest.

Site facilities include electric hook-up, toilets and showers, a laundry, a children's play area and wi-fi.







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### CUMBRIA



#### Pennine View Caravan Park

Pennine View caravan park, first opened at Easter 1990 on a former goods yard. Kirkby Stephen is a small country town, easy reach of Lake District and Yorkshire Dales. This is an all touring park with level pitches of grass or gravel hard standings.

Open early March - early November  
Pennine View, Station Road, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, CA17 4SZ  
TEL: 017683 71717

### CORNWALL



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# Our Vans

## OUTFIT

► Bailey Unicorn Barcelona Mk1  
► SsangYong Rexton

Val Chapman experiences real farm charm in sensational Somerset



We have a somewhat unusual caravan situation; we're probably the only caravanners to have two tourers of the same make. One of our pair of Barcelonas is owned by Bailey; that's the long-term-test current Barcelona model. The other is owned by us. That's one of the first Barcelonas to be made, in 2011. And it's just been to Bailey retailer, Ropers Caravan World, in North Yorkshire for its annual service.

We'd wondered which of 'our' Barcelonas to take to Somerset on a recent trip. There was a bit of a debate... we really should use Bailey's caravan... it is, after all, on loan to be used.



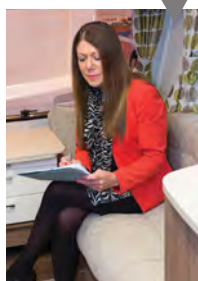
But then, unexpected advice from Ropers' technicians during the service settled the debate. Our Barcelona's tyres needed replacing, even though they're not quite five years old, the accepted age at which it's recommended caravan tyres should be replaced. And the reason? It hasn't travelled enough miles.

We've been moving it a few metres every couple of months, to avoid it sitting on one tyre position for too long (following standard advice). But, Ropers told us that's not enough.

We need to warm the tyres up regularly, and there's only one way to do that: by using the caravan more frequently.

Tiny cracks, almost too small to see, are lurking between the tyre treads

## WRITTEN BY



### VAL CHAPMAN

This month: Barcelona comparisons, a tractor-trailer farm tour, a week in Somerset and lots of lovely meat to eat!

So, we start as we mean to go on, and the 2011 Barcelona gets a journey down the M5 to the south west, to warm up its tyres.

## OUR MISSION

We're at Dulhorn Farm Holiday Park, handily located just five minutes from the M5. Dulhorn gives us a field all to ourselves, one of several at this relaxing, family farm site. One of the highest hills in Somerset, Brent Knoll, provides a stunning backdrop for our break, and the Barcelona nestles nicely in one corner, by the gate, our luxury accommodation for the week.

## LIGHT FANTASTIC

On the first evening, as the sun sets deep red over Dulhorn Farm's open countryside vista, we switch on all of our Barcelona's lights for the first time since we took 'possession' of the newer, test Barcelona. We'd forgotten how light and bright the 2011 caravan is (in all areas except the bedroom, for which we bought a lamp).

It's much brighter than our on-test current Barcelona, and we are suddenly reminded of all the aspects of this caravan that drove us to buy it.

The totally flat, near-metre length of central front pull-out table (the current Barcelona's table is on two levels); the large quantity of kitchen surface including an area to the right of the hob (which the current Barcelona lacks) and the enormous capacity of the kitchen cabinet suite (much more than the current Barcelona Mk3).

Conversation turns to comparisons. The third-generation Barcelona is undeniably a fantastic caravan in very many ways and we love it to bits. But, during our five days at Dulhorn Farm, inhabiting our own, first-generation Barcelona for the first time in many months, we came more and more to realise that, for us, the first Barcelona is in fact the best so far.



Light and bright by day and night





The tractor-trailer ride



All of us appreciate the Alde heating in both Barcelonas, including Jasper the cat!

## TRACTOR-TRAILER RIDES

Our stay at Dulhorn Farm coincided with one of the site's family attractions; tractor-trailer rides around the farm's 110 acres, which take place frequently. They're free, and serve to emphasise the charming, natural farm character of this site that was set up in 1970 when current owner's dad, John, bought the initial 21 acres.

It was a dairy farm then, and John Bowden decided caravans would be an ideal venture so, in 1977, he built the first toilet and shower building.

Dulhorn Farm, just two miles from the M5, is now more than four times the size of those early beginnings. Livestock farming has switched from dairy to beef and sheep, and the caravan site now extends to four separate areas. Four holiday cottages,

Dulhorn Farm, with Brent Knoll as a backdrop



created from converted farm buildings, are often rented by relatives of families who've brought their caravans here; it's an ideal way of families getting together for holidays when not everyone owns a tourer.

For us, though, the farm is the charm here, and we were interested to see the most recent additions to the suckler herd, three Highland cattle, the main attraction on this week's tractor-trailer tour.

And after the tour? Well, meat from the Hereford-Charolais cross herd is on sale at Dulhorn's mini shop but only for those who don't make too much of an emotional connection between field and plate!

Dulhorn is a lovely location, to which we'll be returning later this year. We have some good excuses: friends are a 10-minute drive away, and this site is close to the M5, so it's a great stopover en-route to our favourite caravanning location, the south-west coast.

## WHERE WE STAYED

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February 2016 **Caravan** 85







Tributes flooded in after the sad news of John Wickersham's death...

♦ A big loss it the industry. RIP John. Thoughts to Carole, the children and grandchildren.

**Newark Independent Caravan Services**  
via Facebook

♦ Sending our condolences from all at Adria. Such sad news. RIP John.

**Adria Caravans**  
via Facebook

♦ So, so sad.

**@ElvisTheEldis**  
via Twitter

♦ Our thoughts are very much with his family. His words of wisdom helped so many within this great hobby of ours, from all at East Durham Caravan Club.

**Darrin Middlebrook**  
via Facebook

♦ A real enthusiast. A sad loss.

**@Chrishood57**  
via Twitter

♦ Shame. Top bloke and knew his stuff... After all, he actually did write the book!

**Andy Neal**  
via Facebook

♦ What sad news. Best wishes to the family. May you find peace during this sad time.

**Nancy Makin**  
via Facebook

♦ Very sad. He gave us a lot of information, which was very helpful to me. Rest in Peace. God bless. A special man with style.

**David Ian Tullett**  
via Facebook

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# Caravanning

## BIG WEEKENDER 2016 ANNOUNCED!

*Caravan* magazine has teamed up with the brilliant British Motor Museum, at Gaydon in beautiful Warwickshire, for its 2016 Big Weekender. The event's on May Day Bank Holiday weekend – Friday 29 April (evening) to Monday 2 May.

The superb museum ([britishmotormuseum.co.uk](http://britishmotormuseum.co.uk)), with almost 300 cars in its collection, is the centre-piece of the weekend, but there'll also be a plethora of accessory stands, caravans for sale, live entertainment and competitions. Plus, of course, you're in the heart of one of Britain's most amazing and historic counties, Warwickshire.

Warwick Castle is on the doorstep, as are Shakespeare's Stratford and Royal Leamington Spa. Coventry and Bicester (with its renowned outlet shopping centre) are 30 minutes away, and brilliant Birmingham, just 45 minutes away.

Our plans for an awesome weekend are still being formulated, but pop the event in your diary and make a date to meet friends and family in Gaydon for one of the best caravan events of the year.

See the advert on page 11 for more details.

**[britishmotormuseum.co.uk](http://britishmotormuseum.co.uk)**

## CASSOA & SOLD SECURE PARTNERSHIP

Secure caravan storage association, CaSSOA, has got together with security expert, Sold Secure, to work to minimise caravan theft.

The knowledge and expertise of the two organisations are complementary, and Becci Rooke, CaSSOA administrator, told *Caravan*: "The partnership between CaSSOA and Sold Secure, presents an excellent opportunity to combine forces to work towards our shared vision of reducing caravan crime."

For more information visit **[cassoa.co.uk](http://cassoa.co.uk)** and **[soldsecure.com](http://soldsecure.com)**



## RAMP IT UP

After last month's dog special issue, I thought you might like to see my doggie ramp.

It cost £64.99, which broke my heart, but my wife, Kim, told me 'It's because she's worth it!' – that's Cally the dog, not Kim!

I got it from eBay, from a company called pawstradinguk.

It weighs 8.25kg, maybe a bit more now that I've resurfaced it. Cally's paws didn't like the original sandpaper effect. It takes dogs up to 200lbs, and it means Cally can use the back of the car as a day kennel.

She sits up there and enjoys surveying the world beneath her

and comes into the caravan when she feels the need for a drink or to be petted.

The Jeep floor is eight inches higher than the Landcruiser it replaced, and Cally didn't quite make the jump at first and fell a couple of times, hence the ramp. She is now quite proficient at jumping in, with a run up, but loves to use the ramp on site.

These ramps range in price from about £30. There are bi-fold and tri-fold versions, we had to go for the tri-fold, as it folds to a shorter length, the back of the Jeep is not as big as some.

**Rod Farrendon, via email**







# World



## HARROGATE SHOW 2016

The 2016 Show Season begins on 18-20 March with the brilliant Harrogate event at the Great Yorkshire Showground on the edge of town. This is an ideal day out for anyone seeking new touring accessories or considering of swapping to a motorhome.

So pencil it in your new diary and check out [outandaboutlive.co.uk/shows](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk/shows) for more details.



After your 'Pet Special' issue last month, here's a funny photo of our dog, Benji, studying the new 2016 caravans in your magazine.

The Grindle Family, via email

## LETTERS

Regarding your reader's letter *Bum Deal in The Shower* (Caravan, October 2015). There is a more serious side to the poor design of shower controls in some caravans. On our current caravan (Coachman Amara) and our previous caravan (Bailey Ranger) the temperature control lever protrudes at a 90-degree angle from the shower unit. It is all too easy to accidentally brush against the lever when moving around the shower cubicle during a shower. The result can be

a sudden icy blast... or, more seriously, the water temperature turning to scalding hot without any warning at all.

I don't know whether this sticking-out design of shower temperature control lever is common in caravans, or just in our experience. I am sure a rotary dial to set the shower temperature would be a much safer option and eliminate the risk of inadvertently receiving a blast of scalding-hot water during a shower.

Guy, Stockport



"Must be Cornish miles!"  
Ellie Mason



## MEGA ADVENT GIVEAWAY



You can still enter to win great prizes (if it's not yet 26 January when you read this!)

There are still loads of prizes up for grabs in our Mega Advent giveaway. Behind every window opened in December was a great prize, and each individual giveaway is open for 30 days, so, if it's not yet Jan 26 when you read this, you can still enter. The biggest prize, a brilliant E&P leveller worth over £1700, is open until January 26!

Log on to [caravanadvent.co.uk](http://caravanadvent.co.uk) now to enter... it literally takes two minutes. Good luck!





# NEW SSANGYONG'S NAME SAYS IT ALL TIVOLI BACKWARDS? I LOV IT



**T**hings just keep getting better for the creators of the Korando, as the stylish Tivoli gets a diesel heart transplant.

Added to accompany the previously-released petrol line-up, the 2WD 1.6D ELX manual model we tested heads from 0-62 in 12 seconds thanks to 115PS with an economy of 65.7mpg.

While these performance stats aren't going to melt any faces, this £17,250 OTR Tivoli remains a strong contender to the popular crossover party that has, until now, been led by the likes of Nissan's Juke.

The Tivoli's cockpit is a joy to sit in, and here you'll find TomTom navigation, a reversing camera,



front and rear parking sensors – all this is tappable on the seven-inch touchscreen from the comfort of leather-trimmed seats. The interior mood lighting makes everything feel a bit boudoir – in a good way – the only thing missing is a rotating bed! Maybe in the next model, SsangYong?

Visibility isn't brilliant for reversing (hence the need for cameras, perhaps), with thick back pillars protruding into view, but the real downside comes with the auto models. These lag and lurch when they do finally launch. Still, stick with manual and it'll make for an enjoyable drive. Visit [ssangyonggb.co.uk](http://ssangyonggb.co.uk)



## AUDI Q3 1.4

A smooth ride that's inherently capable on the road, the Q3 has substance and style but may not match some levels of luggage space in the competitive world of the crossover. Prices start from £25,650 for the SE model. However, if you want full badge snobbery bragging rights, you'll have to spend at least £8000 more for the top trim level privilege.

### TECH SPEC

**PRICE** £33,035

**0-62MPH** 8.9 seconds

**TOP SPEED** 126mph

**AVERAGE ECONOMY** 47.9mpg

**KERBWEIGHT** 1405kg (unladen weight)



## VOLVO XC60 D4 AWD

On start up, the heavy steering takes a bit of getting used to, as does a large turning circle. There's a vast difference between standard and sport mode, and lag from low speeds in both. However, it picks up from about 30-40mph when accelerating – and growls! Little niggles spoil an enjoyable, comfortable drive, though. The City Safety auto-braking can kick in when approaching car-park barriers, which is annoying/violent/can give you whiplash! And, while sign recognition is useful, there is the odd occasion where you join a national speed limit road (in this case, the A1) and the dash still displays 30mph. Proof that common sense prevails over tech?

### TECH SPEC

**PRICE** £35,260

**0-62MPH** 9.4 seconds

**TOP SPEED** 124mph

**AVERAGE ECONOMY** 53.3mpg

**KERBWEIGHT** 1839kg

## FORD KUGA TITANIUM X SPORT TDCI AWD



Responsive gearing and steering make it a surprising package when taking on a corner. Combine that with Ford's all-wheel-drive capabilities, and stodgy campsite terrains or mucky roads won't prove problematic.

It doesn't take long to love the Kuga's bulbous bodylines, with distinctive-enough features to stand out from the crowd in any car park. It's rugged enough to tackle harder drives if needed but also refined so that it can look tidy and tasteful towing, too.

### TECH SPEC

**PRICE** £34,890

**0-62MPH** 9.2 seconds

**TOP SPEED** 126mph

**AVERAGE ECONOMY**

54.3mpg

**KERBWEIGHT** 1702kg

**T**his five-door hatch is nimble, dynamic and comfy as anything you're likely to sit in. Unsurprisingly, though, you pay for how good it is, with prices for this trim from £28,645 OTR. Starting prices for the base-range Zetec Kuga start at a more wallet-friendly level – a smidge over £20k.



# JOHN WICKERSHAM

(aka Caravan Guru)

**T**he team at Caravan magazine is sad to report that our long-standing contributor, and all-round caravan guru, John Wickersham, passed away on Saturday 7 December 2015, after a battle with cancer.

JW used caravans and motorhomes to pursue his active lifestyle and keep himself in great shape. Somewhat annoyingly to the rest of us, he looked about 20 years younger than the 73 he had accrued!

After many years as Principal Lecturer and Director of Sport at Bedford College of Higher Education, John 'retired' in 1992 and began his next career as a freelance journalist and photographer. His knowledge of, and passion for, caravans and motorhomes were unrivalled, and he wrote for all the UK's best touring titles. He also created 11 iconic guides and manuals, including *The Caravan Manual* and *The Caravanning Handbook* – unmissable reading for all caravanners. Essentially, JW wrote the caravan bible.

I made the elementary mistake of 'dropping' JW from *Caravan* magazine in my early days on the title, having misinterpreted some reader research. I soon realised the error of my ways and, when I went 'crawling back', John was as gracious as could be, coming back on board to complete a further two years, disseminating his technical wizardry to our brilliant readers.

John was always very generous with his time and knowledge, especially at shows and events – a fact reflected in the unprecedented number of amazing messages left by grateful readers when we announced his passing on social media. (see panel)

John loved climbing, canoeing, sailing, skiing and walking. He also embraced new media technologies, becoming a 'star of page and screen', creating his own

website ([wickyworld.co.uk](http://wickyworld.co.uk)), and featuring in many instructional videos on YouTube and TV.

JW didn't just talk the talk, he walked the walk, too, completing all sorts of construction projects: a sailing boat, three kit cars, 22 canoes, three motorcaravans and his home in a Bedfordshire village. When not building or writing, you might have found him tearing around on his unicycle! Some people never grow up!

John leaves a wife, Carole, four children and 10 grand-children. Farewell Wicky.



## Some of the many messages left on Facebook

### Tranquil Camper

Extremely saddened to hear of John's passing. John was a gent who knew just about everything about fixing 'vans and shared his expertise so generously. Condolences to John's family.

### Mark Williams

How very sad. He was so helpful to me.

### Ian Schroeder

Sad news. Top bloke and great company.

### James Scooby Sowerby

RIP. Keep caravanning in heaven

### Jason Appleton

Great loss. Only got my first caravan in August and found his YouTube videos very helpful. Thoughts go to his family.

### David Bell

Oh no. This is such sad news! Such a honour to have met a caravanning and motorhoming legend. He'll be much missed by me and my caravan, ElvisTheElddis. Thoughts with his wife and children.

### Ray Blackwell

What a shock, I would never have said he was 73. He was a character, and was so knowledgeable. Many, many caravanners have benefitted from his wisdom.

### Eamonn A Fountain

R.I.P. Loved his how-to... videos and articles. His passion always shone through. He will be missed.





1

3



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2



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# NEW

### 1 FIREPAL EXTINGUISHER

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**W** [firepal.co.uk](http://firepal.co.uk)

These new compact, lightweight extinguishers are ideal for drivers and caravanners, packing loads of fire-stopping action into an easy-to-use design. Available in three styles (FP50, 100 and 150), FirePal uses an aerosol cartridge to blast liquid, gas or electrical fires up to three metres away. Only 20% of the size of a standard extinguisher, they're easy to handle. We have a compact, 500g JE-50 to give away – perfect for the MTPLM-conscious caravanner. It won't need replacing for five years.



*FirePal, small but effective. The Jean-Claude Van Damme of fire extinguishers!*

### 2 THULE WINGBAR ROOFBARS

**PRICE** £205 (pack of two, fitting and locks kit)

**W** [thule.com](http://thule.com)

Designed to significantly reduce aerodynamic drag and wind noise. Thule claims a 55% reduction in dragforce and 90% lower sound energy than its previous AeroBar. We couldn't tell they were on, they were so quiet, and the reduction in drag means fuel use improves over more conventional roof bars. These have a full-width T-Track which can securely accommodate compatible roof boxes, bike racks, ski carriers, etc. Includes foot pack, fitting kit (type and year of car must be specified) and locks and keys.



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### 3 SMARTPHONE CAMERA LENS

**PRICE** £60

**W** [ollocip.com](http://ollocip.com)

Olloclip 4-in-1 Photo Lens gives your smartphone's camera a new lease of life. Simply clip this titchy optic onto your phone in one of four configurations and you have the option of fisheye wideangle, wideangle, 15x macro or 10x macro. The wide-view options are great for creating dramatic images, while the 'microscopic' macro lenses reveal a whole new world of minute detail. The latter take a bit of practice to use proficiently, as focus is critical, but, once mastered, the results can be superb.



*Takes your smartphone stills and video to the next level.*





## RECHARGABLE LED TORCH

**PRICE** from £110

**W** [maglite.com](http://maglite.com)

The humble torch had hardly changed for a century and then, all at once, LED and long-life, rechargeable batteries happened. Flashlight designers must have been wetting their pants with excitement! No one has embraced this evolution better than US torch guru, MAGLITE. Some 35 years of experience and honing has led to the brilliant MAG-TAC LED Rechargeable Flashlight, a compact accessory with power and longevity that belies its pocketable proportions. Its army-spec toughness (2m drop resistance) is backed up by a powerful Lithium-iron battery that, says MAGLITE, gives 2½ hours on 'full beam' and four hours on 'dip'. Full beam is like a laser, slicing through the darkness up to 178m distant, with excellent beam coverage. MAG-TAC comes with a small recharging stand (USB or 230V compatible), which you could screw inside a handy locker in your van to ensure it's permanently charged.



Small, yet potent, with four settings: full, power save, strobe and single flash.



5



## 4 BLUETOOTH SPEAKER

**PRICE** £30

**W** [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

Edifier offers a huge range of speakers and headphones; we like the compact Edifier MP211 Bluetooth speaker. Simply link your digital device to it via Bluetooth, use the AUX input or insert an SD card, and you can have decent sounds all day long, whether you're on site or on a day out. The integral microphone means you can make/answer calls through the speaker when using your smartphone. The tiny speakers push out a surprising amount of distortion-free sound and deliver up to 10 hours constant use. Just 215g, and comes in blue, yellow, pink, white or black.



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## 5 JUMPACK PORTABLE CHARGER

**PRICE** £80

**W** [cobraelectronics.co.uk](http://cobraelectronics.co.uk)

About the size of a large smartphone but packs enough punch to jumpstart a car, say the makers. With winter in the offing, now might be the time to invest in a JumpPack, which will also charge household devices like phones, e-readers and tablets. The latest JumpPack is thinner and more compact than its predecessor – small enough to fit neatly into any glove compartment or bag. It has a useful, powerful, built-in LED flashlight, and integral 6000mAh Lithium-cobalt battery that holds its charge for longer.



Looks cool and packs a punch. Everyone should have one.

## 6 VIEW QUEST BLIGHTY

**PRICE** £50

**W** [myvq.co.uk](http://myvq.co.uk)

This pocketable DAB/FM radio is as cool as it is cute, and it packs some serious tech in its titchy 82g body. A vivid 1.6in screen delivers key information in DAB mode, and the sound quality is very good. It features 10 DAB presets, a lithium-ion battery with 10 hours playing time, stereo headphones and micro USB charging. Blighty comes in a brushed metal red or grey finish. With diminutive dimensions of 55x16x90mm (smaller than a smartphone), it's a great take-anywhere gadget.



Looks good. Feels good. Sounds good. Enough said!



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February 2016 **Caravan** 91





# Next Month

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MARCH  
ISSUE!

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- ◆ Tyre technology
  - ◆ Lightweight tips and tricks
  - ◆ Off-grid caravanning guide – small-sites touring explained
  - ◆ Touring abroad – an expert's guide
  - ◆ Titchy Caravan Guide – for clarification, that's a big guide full of small caravans!
- PLUS...** the quintessentially-quirky QEK!

## TOURING

- ◆ Adults-only campsites – no kids allowed!
- ◆ Caravan your kids clever at Nottingham Space Centre
- ◆ St Malo – France... only just!
- ◆ Dornoch, in north-east Scotland, explored
- ◆ Cornish family fun... and much more



## TESTED

- ◆ Coachman Vision 570
- ◆ Knaus Südwind 590
- ◆ 4 Highbridge dealer specials
- ◆ 10 used bargains at Raymond James Caravans
- ◆ Sunncamp Super Swift 390 awning reviewed







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**REVIEW** | £19,390 + £545 delivery | MIRO 1524kg | MTPLM 1750kg

**ADRIA** | [w.adria-mobil.com](http://w.adria-mobil.com)



# Adria Adora Isonzo

It's our Caravan of the Year... again! Here's how the great-value, gigantic, Slovenian-made Isonzo won its high points for the second time



caravan has to be pretty special to win our accolade of Caravan of the Year. To win the title twice, a caravan has to be exceptionally awesome. When the Isonzo first arrived on the market two years ago, it won our Best Layout Award and went on to take the top title.

Two years on, the Isonzo has grown in spec stature, gaining Alde heating, a completely redesigned kitchen layout, a bigger fridge-freezer, an illuminated kitchen wall,

and more. Adria tells us the enhanced level of equipment amounts in value to £3200. Yet this latest Isonzo is only £445 more than the initial model.

At £19,390, that's phenomenal value for an eight-metre caravan (from hitch to tail lights). Which is why this unique layout, now with added equipment and extra value, beat off the competition again to take *Caravan* magazine's top title.

The new Isonzo, named after a river which flows through Italy and

#### TESTED BY

Val Chapman

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Richard Chapman

#### TEST LOCATION

Woodland Waters Holiday Park, Ancaster, Grantham

Slovenia, was already in celebration mode, even before our judges shortlisted it for our awards.

It was chosen by Adria as one of two caravans to be granted Silver Collection status in celebration of the manufacturer's 50<sup>th</sup> year. (The other model is the Altea Eden, reviewed last month.)

Isonzos have silver side skirts, front and rear panels, and the curtains have a silvery pattern that looks dramatic against the smart coal-grey background.



**IT'S A  
WINNER!**



The high, arching rooflight ensures the lounge is flooded with light

The most important change to the Isonzo is that this latest model has Alde heating. It's the only model in the Adora range to get the Alde treatment; the others are heated by the Truma blown-air system. With no disrespect to Truma or blown air, we have to say that, for a big caravan in use in mid-winter, Alde transforms the package from great to fantastic. Finned radiators all around the caravan, behind furniture and inside a casement along the offside bedroom wall, plus a panel radiator in the shower, ensure an evenly-distributed warmth. While the weather during our review week was by no means cold, we quickly came to appreciate Alde's superiority, remembering our winter in the predecessor Truma-heated Isonzo, on long-term test; the sheer size of the Isonzo meant the Truma system struggled to keep the

#### TECHNICAL STUFF

<b>BERTHS</b>	4
<b>BODY</b>	6.7m
<b>OVERALL</b>	8.2m
<b>WIDTH</b>	2.45m
<b>HEADROOM</b>	1.95m
<b>WEIGHT</b>	MIRO 1524kg
	MTPLM 1750kg



caravan evenly toasty during seriously cold weather.

So, the new Isonzo is amply warm. And we're appreciating the extra width compared with all other mainstream caravans in Britain except Buccaneers, which share the Isonzo's 2.45m width. We're eager to turn attention to the new-design kitchen but, first, we investigate the pampering department.

### SHOWERING

The shower is almost square, at 63x74cm. This is not the biggest shower room in the business but it is certainly one of the most stylish. And Adrias are the only caravans to be equipped with (stylish, chrome) toilet brushes!

Towel provision comes in the form of a bar on the rear wall plus a rail across the ceiling of the shower. That's a new addition compared with the original model

and makes a big difference. Had this been a feature of the model we used for long-term test, we wouldn't have had to drape towels over the wardrobe door to dry!

### SLEEPING

At 1.4m wide, this bed is domestic double-bed sized. The rounded corners diminish the size of the bed only very slightly. And it's 1.93m long, making this caravan a good choice for tall users.

There's something rather special about the construction of the Isonzo's bed. The (firm foam) mattress is in two halves, linked by fabric. The frame structure is also in two halves. The pillow ends of each half can be raised, rather like a sun lounger, for daytime relaxing. The centrally-hinged, half-and-half design makes getting stuff in and out of the under-bed space really easy. There's also a large (1.10m wide and 34cm high) exterior





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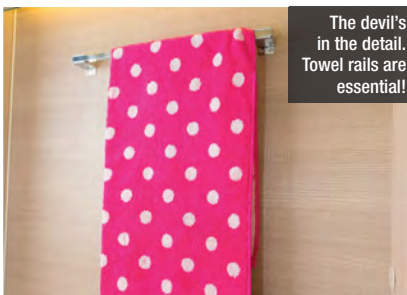
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The lovely, big bed is in its own very separate area



The devil's in the detail. Towel rails are essential!



We love this big, clear, sparkling washbasin with a plug that you just push into place and push again to release



Another towel rail across the shower, and a stylish fruitbowl-style basin



Three bright lights focus down from the rear edge of the huge rooflight



With lighting above the lockers and spotlights to focus on the silver stripes in the curtains, this is a superb bedroom



The U-shaped lounge offers ample seating space



Isonzos now have 140-litre fridge-freezers





access point to this same under-bed space.

It's not just the bed that makes this bedroom very special. It's the amount of daylight coming in from windows on each side.

The width of the caravan is a major reason why this transverse bed layout works better in the Isonzo than in most other models. There is no need for a retraction mechanism to enlarge the corridor; 35cm of space enables the walkway to be considered generous.

Most Isonzos will be bought as two berths, as are the majority of double-bed caravans. But, if you do want to turn the lounge into a bedroom, you can do so by drawing substantially-built wooden-framed slatted units out from the settees to meet in the middle.

## STORAGE

Those bed bases, though, don't make accessing the storage areas below very easy. You have to take off the upholstery sections, including the one across the front of the caravan, in order to raise the (quite heavy) wooden structure. It's not self-supporting, so you either have to delve inside with one hand while holding the top up with the other, or enlist some help. That said, there is so much storage space under the bed that you may rarely need these front areas.

The wardrobe gives you 60cm of hanging width, a good area for shoes beneath and more space alongside, within the brilliant, seven-shelf cabinet. All caravans should have storage space as well designed as this!

## DINING

The coffee table hinged at the front of the caravan is 76cm wide and 35cm deep. It's not designed for place settings, though, so the freestanding table will get more use in an Isonzo than those in caravans with deeper, pull-out front tables. Once you've extracted the table from its cabinet on the fore end of the wardrobe you're likely to leave it

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## WHAT WE LIKE

- ▶ The enormous amount of space
- ▶ The 2.45m width
- ▶ The new 140-litre fridge-freezer

## WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

- ▶ Lack of a TV aerial
- ▶ The lounge needs more cushions, or armrests
- ▶ The under-settee storage area is rather awkward to access



When you keep the sink cover in place there's enough surface space

up. That's because this caravan is so wide that you can turn the table sideways, so it occupies less of the lounge's length.

## LOUNGING

The arched sunroof that stretches almost the whole length of the lounge is a star feature of Adoras. Comfort, though, needs a little help. If you get an Isonzo, buy a couple more scatter cushions, because the absence of armrests means corner-cosiness is lacking.

## KITCHEN

Apart from the inclusion of Alde heating, the biggest change to Isonzos is in the kitchen. The fridge is now the 140-litre slim tower model, and it's in a new position, replacing the oven and grill on the aft end of the kitchen. The drawers are now shorter (but you won't miss the space, they're still capacious), and the oven and grill are alongside them. We think this is a huge improvement, as is the inclusion of a microwave, bringing the Isonzo into line with the vast majority of caravans on sale in Britain.

Another new kitchen feature is the black-and-white acrylic wall, rimmed with white light.

## TOWING

A single-axle caravan that's over eight metres long... that's different from anything made in the UK. Astellas and Adoras are the only caravans on the mainstream British market to have AL-KO's Delta axle. The axle tube is

slightly V-shaped, rather than straight. The stub axles on which they rotate are not quite at right angles to the radius arms of the suspension. This arrangement keeps the wheels in good contact with the road during cornering.

When turning, the inner wheel tows out with a positive camber while the outer wheel has a negative camber. The result is improved stability when towing.

We pulled our long-term-test Isonzo to Norfolk, Cornwall and several outings within the Midlands and, apart from noticeable bounce on rough roads, had more praise than we had expected for this single-axle big beast. The new Isonzo's test tow, again, underlined its efficiency and inherent stability.

## ALSO CONSIDER...

*There are many transverse-bed caravans but none comes close on size and value*

## OPTIONS TO GO FOR...

*A TV aerial; Adria dealers fit these*

## OUR VERDICT

*The title says it all. The 2016 Caravan of the Year gained high marks for its value considering its length, width, its superb island-bed layout, and the level of equipment which now includes Alde heating. That factor, alone, has transformed the Isonzo. The best just got even better! Anything we'd change? Well, we'd like a television aerial as standard (in line with all British-made caravans, so that's the market standard here). And we'd like two more nice, big cushions. That's all.*

THE ISONZO GAINED ITS HIGH MARKS FOR ITS VALUE AND ITS LEVEL OF EQUIPMENT WHICH NOW INCLUDES ALDE HEATING





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The Osprey 554 looks brilliant from every angle

# Elddis Osprey 554

Britain's newest special edition range takes off this spring. It's called Osprey, made by Elddis to the specification of Raymond James Caravans

**T**he new Elddis Osprey range, with a £2000-plus package of extras and an exclusive fabric scheme, has a very special mission, quite apart from appealing to buyers of touring caravans.

The launch of the range, named after the magnificent, fish-eating bird of prey that was once extinct in the UK, celebrates the reintroduction of ospreys to Britain.

And every buyer of an Elddis Osprey will be presented with a limited edition print; a fine-detail painting of a pair of nesting ospreys.

The range is made for Raymond James Caravans in Atherstone, Warwickshire. There are seven models in the range: a two-berth with a rear shower room, three six-berths, and three caravans with fixed beds, specifically designed to appeal to couples. One of these

#### TESTED BY

Val Chapman

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

John Chapman

#### TEST LOCATION

Atherstone Caravan Site  
Warwickshire  
W.atherstonecaravansite.co.uk

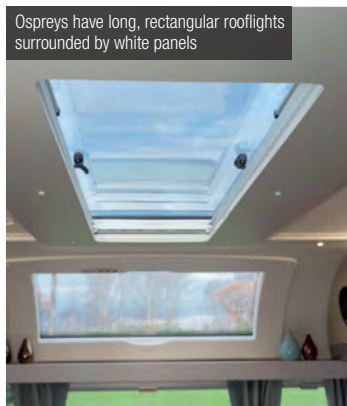
has twin single beds and two have fixed double beds. These are the 550, with the bed at the rear, and the transverse island-bed 554. We picked the latter as an example of the Osprey range because its layout is fast-becoming Britain's most popular one for couples.

The package of extras that distinguishes Ospreys features an exclusive upholstery scheme, plus additional equipment, worth £2271.





A pull-out table for two, ideal for snacks and breakfast



Ospreys have long, rectangular rooflights surrounded by white panels



The microwave is at a convenient height for people of most statures



Plenty of surface space and a big, circular sink

## EXTRA EQUIPMENT

- Exclusive fabric scheme
- AL-KO Secure wheel lock
- Gas barbecue point
- Mains socket and exterior locker access
- Heavy-duty corner steadies
- 'Big feet' load spreaders
- Awning warmer
- Cold water external shower
- Auto changeover gas regulator
- Larger rooflights
- Upgraded awning light
- Gas locker light
- Offside service light

The extras include an AL-KO Secure wheel lock, a gas barbecue point, an exterior mains socket, exterior access to an under-settee locker, and an external cold-water shower, ideal for washing muddy boots.

Ospreys also have an external outlet for the blown-air heating system, to direct warmed air into your awning, and a light inside the gas bottle locker where there's also an automatic gas cylinder changeover system.

The long list of extras also features an upgraded awning light, and an offside light so that you can see clearly when you refill your water container after dark.

In addition, Elddis Ospreys are distinguished from the Avanté models on which they're based by unique graphics and larger rooflights, plus heavy-duty corner

## TECHNICAL STUFF

**BERTHS** 4  
**LENGTH BODY** 5.75M  
**OVERALL** 7.3M  
**WIDTH** 2.26M  
**HEADROOM** 1.95M  
**WEIGHT MIRO** 1289KG  
**MTPLM** 1442KG



steadies complete with big-foot load spreaders.

The Osprey story is an interesting one. The bird after which the new range was named is the fourth rarest bird of prey in Britain. They can now be seen in Scotland, Wales, Leicestershire and in the Lake District.

This special-edition caravan specifically celebrates the return of the osprey to one of those regions, the Lake District.

For 15 years, the Lake District Osprey Project has been working to establish the birds here. In 2001, a nest platform was built overlooking Bassenthwaite Lake, a National Nature Reserve.

A pair of ospreys took to the platform and nested, successfully rearing one chick. These were the first wild

ospreys to breed in the Lake District for more than 150 years.

The limited edition print (below) which every purchaser of an Osprey caravan receives, celebrates the new range's launch and also the conservation work in the Lake District.







Exclusive fabrics are a feature of Ospreys



Pale woodwork ensures Ospreys look light and airy



The useful mirror on the bedroom wall also makes the area look larger

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A well-proportioned shower room

EVERY BUYER OF AN OSPREY CARAVAN WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A LIMITED EDITION PRINT OF A PAIR OF OSPREYS NESTING

#### VERDICT

With extra equipment amounting in value to more than £2000, for only £700 more than the price of the standard Avanté 554 on which it's based, (that's £18,294 including the £495 delivery fee), the Osprey 554 is enticing value. And the new range's role in marking a significant wildlife achievement adds to its special appeal.





# INTRODUCING THE 2016 ELDDIS OSPREY RANGE

Choose from 7 superb layouts



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£16,995



Britain's newest special edition range takes off this spring. It's called Osprey, made by Elddis to the specification of Raymond James Caravans

- Exclusive fabric scheme
- AL-KO Secure wheel lock
- Gas barbecue point
- Mains socket and exterior locker access
- Heavy-duty corner steadies
- 'Big feet' load spreaders
- Awning warmer

- Cold water external shower
- Auto changeover gas regulator
- Larger rooflights
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Big turquoise poppies give the Siena a stunning fabric feature

# Swift Siena 4SB

The special-edition Swift Siena 4SB has extras worth £2475 for just £999 more than the price of the standard Sprite on which it's based



Grantham Caravans' exclusive Siena range, named after the medieval city in the heart of Tuscany, is based on the Sprite range, with enhanced equipment levels and unique upholstery.

The Siena's fabric colour scheme uses turquoise, which conjures up thoughts of blue skies and seas – in the stunning Italian region of Tuscany, perhaps!?

Touches of style and luxury are everywhere in Sienas. Two of the four cushions have the name 'Siena' embroidered across a corner. The fixed-bed models have Siena-embroidered bed runners. And all models come with a set of three quality towels with the word 'Siena' embroidered into them.

Enhanced security comes in the form of three devices, in addition to the standard Tracker system.

#### TESTED BY

Val Chapman

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Richard Chapman

#### TEST LOCATION

Woodland Waters Holiday Park, Ancaster, Grantham

These are a key fob-operated alarm system, plus an AL-KO Secure wheel lock and a Milenco hitchlock.

Other items in the exclusive package of extras include an exterior access hatch to the front nearside under-settee locker, a microwave and a big, wide sunroof that ensures the lounge is always light and bright. The combination of ample daylight coming in at roof

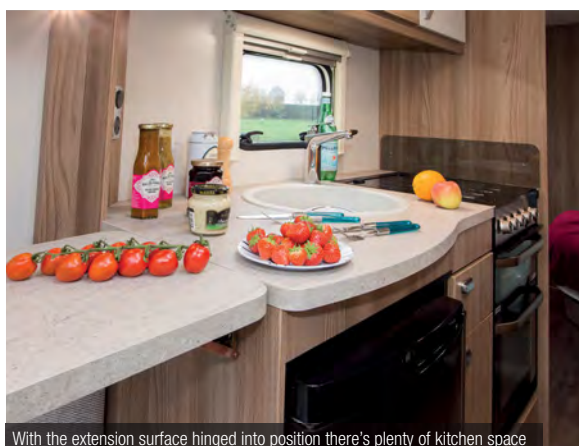




The kitchen is compact but practical



All Siena models have large, circular sinks



With the extension surface hinged into position there's plenty of kitchen space



Ample shelf and cabinet space in the shower room



A big sunroof with bright LEDs above it

## EXTRA EQUIPMENT

- Exclusive fabrics
- Extra equipment
- Alarm system
- AL-KO Secure wheel lock
- Milenco hitchlock
- Exterior access hatch to under-settee locker
- Microwave
- Sunroof
- Three Siena-embroidered towels
- Embroidered bed runner

level and the pale fabrics, plus the splashes of turquoise in cushions and curtains, ensured that the Siena's sunny holiday image even survived the extremely dull weather of our review day.

Siena is a range of charming caravans of character, and offering outstanding value for money. Our review example of the range is the transverse island-bed Siena 4SB, with extras amounting in value to £2475 for just £999 more than the price of the standard Sprite Major 4 SB on which it's based (that's £15,655 plus £545 delivery, making a total of £16,200).

There are four models in the range: a two-berth, a six-berth and two with double beds.

The smallest is the Siena 2, which is based on the Sprite Alpine 2, with an end washroom and a dresser opposite the kitchen, to give you

### TECHNICAL STUFF

**BERTHS** 4  
**LENGTH BODY** 5.83M  
**OVERALL** 7.48M  
**WIDTH** 2.23M  
**HEADROOM** 1.95M  
**WEIGHT MIRO** 1265KG  
**MTPLM** 1421KG



handy extra kitchen space when you need it.

The six-berth 6TD has a special 'room' at the rear, a place the children can call their own; space to eat, to play and, when playtime ends, to transform into a lovely, cosy bedroom for four, with two bunk beds and two more bunks to be created opposite.

The Siena 4 is one of the most compact fixed-bed caravans on the market, with its bed on the offside and a corner shower-toilet room alongside.

Grantham Caravans first introduced the Siena special edition range for 2015. It proved to be so popular that, along with the 2016 Sienas, Grantham launched a second range of Sienas. These five models, called Siena Accent, are based on Swift's Challenger range. And all Sienas and Siena Accents

have the Swift Group's new polyurethane, timberless-framed body shell. The floors have a protective GRP outer skin, and the roof is now made from hail-resistant GRP.

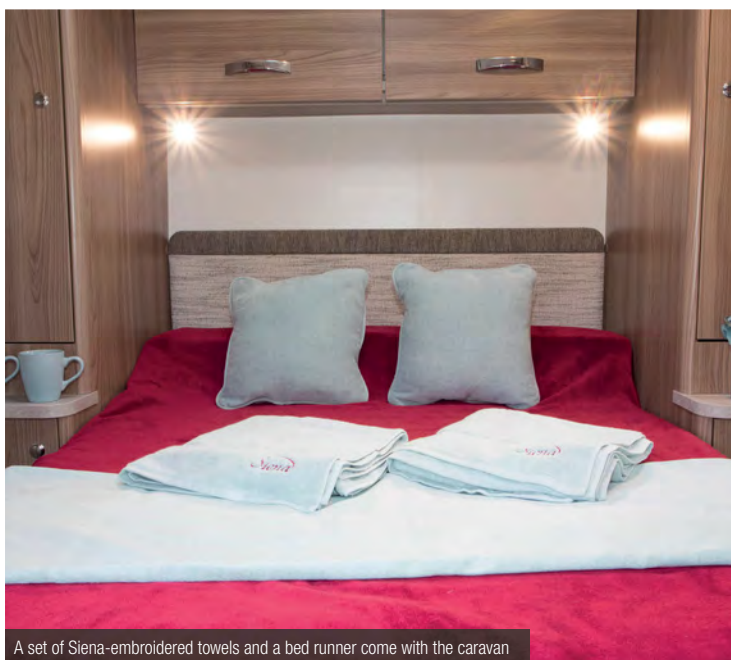


Upholstered panels border the bedroom window





Even though this is a mid-length caravan, it doesn't feel cramped



A set of Siena-embroidered towels and a bed runner come with the caravan

#### ANNUAL PREMIUM

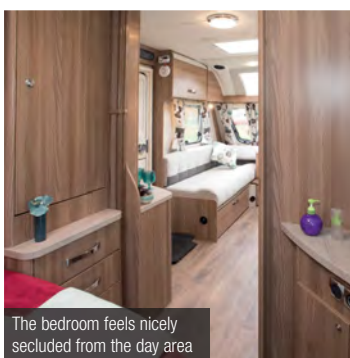
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There's a large dressing table complete with television connection points



The bedroom feels nicely secluded from the day area

ALL MODELS COME WITH A SET OF THREE QUALITY TOWELS, WITH THE NAME 'SIENA' EMBROIDERED INTO THEM

#### VERDICT

If you like Sprites for their light weight and excellent value, you're pretty much guaranteed to be wooed by this superb version, with a different fabric look and enhanced security features. It's brilliant value for money, with £1476-worth of additional equipment free of charge.







SWIFT



# *Siena*

ACCENT

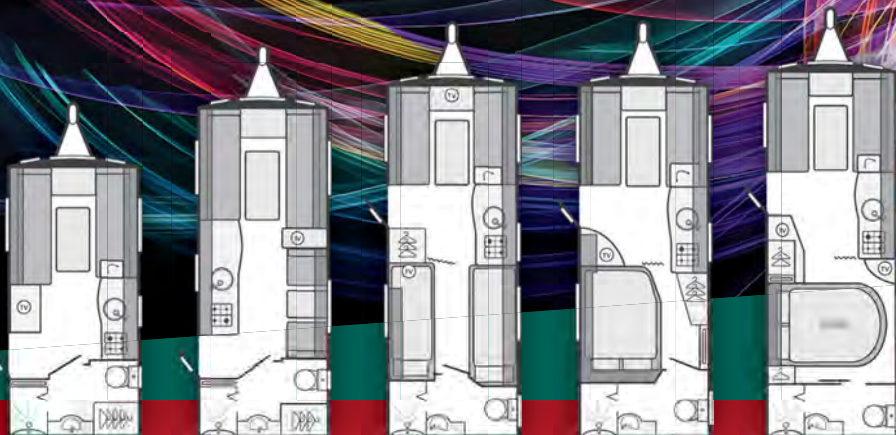
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Accent 480

Accent 530

Accent 565

Accent 570

Accent 580

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# 10 IMPRESSIVE TOURERS

From  
£8250 to  
£15,350

If you aspire to own a new Bailey, but you'd rather save cash by buying a used one, Chipping Sodbury is a great place to search

## 1 BAILEY RANGER 620/6

This caravan has lots of appealing features. It's only 1540kg all up. It sleeps six, has a double bed, long settees and a very big kitchen. A perfect choice for a family looking for lots of accommodation in a lightweight caravan.

The environment is light and bright, with sunny-yellow curtains and a seating fabric that is generally pale, yet with an interesting pattern. It's the length of the kitchen, though, that's a really

### THE CONDITION

*Hobs are always a barometer of caravan condition and this one retains a near-new look, with only a tiny bit of scratching – and that's been caused by cleaning. The oven and grill are in similarly sparkling condition. And there's a surprise. The sink has survived without gaining any scratches in the base. Almost all the caravans we see with this type of sink exhibit scratches. As we worked our way around the selection of used caravans here, it quickly became apparent that this Ranger wasn't the only one with no scratches in the sink. Every caravan here had scratch-free sinks. Then we learned why. Every new caravan supplied by Chipping Sodbury goes out with a mat for the sink. Simple!*

### TECHNICAL STUFF

**YEAR** 2008  
**PRICE** £8250  
**BERTHS** 6  
**LENGTH** BODY 6.29M  
OVERALL 7.89M  
**WEIGHT** MIRO 1281KG  
MTPLM 1540KG  
**LAYOUT** DOUBLE BED,  
SIDE DINING AREA,  
CORNER SHOWER ROOM



### CARAVANwise

Our sample quotes are subject to normal underwriting criteria

important factor about this caravan, stretching nearly two metres when you hinge down the extension that forms part of the divider between the kitchen and the double bed area.

Versatility is another key attribute, especially in terms of eating. Two can dine at the side dining table, and four at the free-standing table in the lounge, or all six can eat together when you pull out the chest-of-drawers top and put the free-standing table next to it.

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## 2 SWIFT CONQUEROR 645

It's almost the same length as the Bailey we'd just picked for this selection, and it shares the twin-axle stability advantage. But, there the similarity ends, for here we've found a perfect caravan for a couple, with a transverse island bed. What's also special about this van is the big fridge with separate freezer.

The shower room spans the whole width of the caravan, and the bedroom features a large dressing table.

### THE CONDITION

*The pale cream upholstery is completely as new, with no marks, and feels firm. The sprung mattress feels like new, too. The three-burner hob with hotplate shows only a tiny bit of heat burnish as evidence of use, and we think the oven and grill probably haven't been used at all. A tiny amount of staining in the base of the rock-effect sink shows that the previous owners were tea drinkers; there is no doubt the marks have been caused by tea bags! The white chopping board sink cover is spotless, though. Overall, this caravan is in lovely condition, one that would without doubt tempt us to part with our own money were we in the market for this layout at this price.*



### TECHNICAL STUFF

**YEAR** 2011  
**PRICE** £14,995  
**BERTHS** 4  
**LENGTH BODY** 6.27M  
**OVERALL** 7.99M  
**WEIGHT MIRO** 1624KG  
**MTPLM** 1825KG  
**LAYOUT** TRANSVERSE ISLAND BED



CARAVANWISE  
INSURANCE  
QUOTE  
£223



Fabrics are appealingly plain cream with brown banding.

There's a lot to like about this Conqueror, including its level of spec, with Alde heating and an alarm system.

Big lower kitchen cabinet accommodation impressed us, too.

The overall look and feel of luxury that Conquerors provide is just lovely.

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Chipping Sodbury Caravans is best known as a retailer dealing exclusively in Bailey caravans. In addition to all three Bailey ranges, Chipping Sodbury has its own well-established special editions of the lightweight Pursuit range, called the Platinum Pursuit. Now, for 2016, the Platinum pack of extra equipment is also on the new Pegasus range.

While the focus is firmly on new Bailey tourers at this retailer, there is always a good selection of used caravans on display, too.

Chipping Sodbury Caravans was founded more than 30 years ago, and the company is now in its second generation of family ownership, under the direction of Jamie Pickford.

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## 3 BAILEY RANGER GT60 540/6

Like the first model we picked, the Ranger 620/6, this caravan is a fantastic choice for a family wanting lots of berths.

The big plus-point about this tourer is that the kids have their own very separate bedroom at the rear, with three bunks and a bed to create from the three-person dining area. And it all closes off with a solid door. That feature sets this caravan apart from almost any other; it's especially important when children are young. And this caravan's triple-bunk layout is perfect while children are very young; as they grow taller, the restricted head height between the bunks indicates it's time to change the caravan, which is undeniably why triple-bunk

### TECHNICAL STUFF

**YEAR** 2010  
**PRICE** £9350  
**BERTHS** 6  
**LENGTH BODY** 5.51M  
**OVERALL** 7.18M  
**WEIGHT MIRO** 1124KG  
**MTPLM** 1350KG  
**LAYOUT** TRIPLE BUNK STACK; REAR FAMILY AREA; SIDE WASHROOM



caravans fell out of fashion. Yet, they do have their place; they're ideal for young ones because the base bunk is so close to the floor that very young children have no risk of getting hurt should they roll off the mattress.

CARAVANWISE  
INSURANCE  
QUOTE  
£157.57

### THE CONDITION

*The four-burner hob is just as new. That goes for the oven and grill, too; perhaps the previous owners did all their cooking on a barbecue! This Ranger has a microwave, and that's in gleamingly new condition, too. The plain fawn upholstery has two areas where there are slight marks, though, but that would not stop us from buying this caravan ourselves. It's a great choice for a young family.*





## 4 BAILEY ORION 450/5



Orions were designed specifically to appeal to first-time buyers. They're light in weight, small, and with a delightful modern fabric scheme.

This model has a unique layout. The central area is a dining-bedroom, with an offside settee and a bunk to raise above it. Opposite, the two-person dining area converts into a single bed. The whole area closes off neatly, with a curtain spanning the doorway-width gap between the wooden walls that border the kitchen and the dresser. It's a nicely separate, cosy area.



### THE CONDITION

*This Orion is almost as new. The triangular three-burner hob and combined oven-grill are immaculate, and show no signs of use; there's not even heat burnish on the pan trivet. Perhaps the owners of this caravan, like the one we chose before it, cooked all their meals on a barbecue! The cream carpet and the seating fabric have survived three holiday years unmarked, too. For a lightweight caravan at a great price and in top condition, this Orion takes some beating.*

### TECHNICAL STUFF

**YEAR** 2012  
**PRICE** £10,995  
**BERTHS** 5  
**LENGTH** BODY 5.35M  
**OVERALL** 6.51M  
**WEIGHT** MIRO 1181KG  
**MTPLM** 1345KG  
**LAYOUT** REAR SHOWER, CENTRAL BED-DINING AREA

CARAVANWISE  
INSURANCE  
QUOTE  
£183.54



The 450/5 is a compact caravan, with an appealingly light weight, yet all you need is here, including a full-width shower room.

## 5 BAILEY PEGASUS GT65 VERONA



CARAVANWISE  
INSURANCE  
QUOTE  
£228.05

Unsurprisingly, given that Chipping Sodbury Caravans is a Bailey solus retailer, there is a good range of part-exchanged used Baileys here; indeed, nearly all of them are Baileys. So, if you fancy a used Bailey this is an ideal hunting ground.

This model is unusual in that it's a reasonably compact fixed-bed caravan with settees that are long

enough to make single beds and a kitchen that's easily big enough for making meals for four.

The mattress is deep and sprung, and there's a quality feel about this caravan, with attractive upholstery and nice button detail on the cushions. And this model has the advantage of the high-arching rooflight that is now a Bailey hallmark.



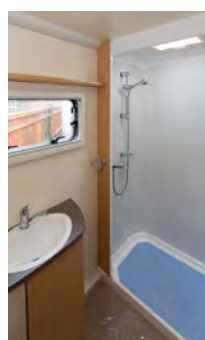
### TECHNICAL STUFF

**YEAR** 2014  
**PRICE** £15,350  
**BERTHS** 4  
**LENGTH** BODY 5.68M  
**OVERALL** 7.38M  
**WEIGHT** MIRO 1290KG  
**MTPLM** 1448KG  
**LAYOUT** FIXED BED, REAR SHOWER ROOM



### THE CONDITION

*You'd expect near-new condition in a caravan that's only just entering its second year, and this one is certainly up there with the best. Only heat burnish on the mains hotplate shows that cooking has taken place here. The base of the sink has no washing-up bowl scratches. And the mattress is still covered in its original plastic packaging. Amazing!*





## 6 BAILEY UNICORN CADIZ

CARAVANWISE  
INSURANCE  
QUOTE  
**£220.91**



Also in the nearly-new bracket, we discovered this twin-bed caravan.

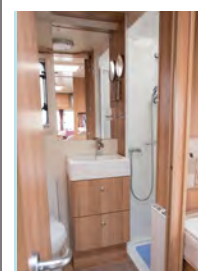
This was one of the first generation of Unicorns, with a front under-seat locker design that's unique. You lift the whole unit (top and front) to get at the space beneath, and the lounge double-bed base is part of this structure, with a

slatted base which pulls out from each side to meet in the centre.

First-generation Unicorns had very large rectangular sinks, which are lovely; washing-up is so easy here. The hob has four burners; the microwave is housed in the dresser unit opposite, at a height convenient for people of most statures.

### THE CONDITION

*Everywhere in this caravan gleams like new. The full-width end shower room is immaculate, as is the upholstery and pale cream carpet. There is absolutely no sign of use on the hob or inside the grill and oven. And the sink has survived without any base scratches. A lovely example that shows you can find a used caravan that really does look like new, and saves you a lot of money; a new Cadiz would cost you £21,055.*



### TECHNICAL STUFF

**YEAR** 2012  
**PRICE** £14,850  
**BERTHS** 4  
**LENGTH BODY** 5.68M  
**OVERALL** 7.25M  
**WEIGHT MIRO** 1436KG  
**MTPLM** 1593KG  
**LAYOUT** TWIN BEDS



## 7 BAILEY OLYMPUS 530/4



### THE CONDITION

*In a word: superb! Like our previous choice, the hob, oven and grill are immaculate, as is the sink. The pale cream carpet is as new, too. There's just a suggestion of a scuff mark on the glossy kitchen surface, and it's visible only in strong light (we do inspect very closely!). That apart, if someone had told us this caravan hadn't been used we'd have believed them. We love it!*



We picked this caravan because it has the unusual feature of a U-shaped lounge, so it's ideal if you like to entertain friends; at least five can sit comfortably here.

Chipping Sodbury's used selection focuses on nearly-new vans; it's a great place to come if you're buying in this bracket.



The Olympus range has been discontinued, but these caravans have strong appeal and distinctive looks, with dark, imitation-marble kitchen surface and attractive, patterned upholstery.

The bedroom is well proportioned and has a large, wedge-shaped wardrobe. The kitchen has a good amount of surface, both to the left and right of the sink, and with a small ledge to the right of the hob; that's particularly useful for placing cooking implements. And opposite, the dresser that accommodates the microwave provides extra kitchen space when you need it.

### TECHNICAL STUFF

**YEAR** 2013  
**PRICE** £12,995  
**BERTHS** 4  
**LENGTH BODY** 5.67M  
**OVERALL** 7.25M  
**WEIGHT MIRO** 1275KG  
**MTPLM** 1443KG  
**LAYOUT** U-SHAPED  
LOUNGE, DOUBLE BED



CARAVANWISE  
INSURANCE  
QUOTE  
**£194.60**



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#### TECHNICAL STUFF

**YEAR** 2012  
**PRICE** £11,250  
**BERTHS** 2  
**LENGTH BODY** 4.73M  
**OVERALL** 6.39M  
**WEIGHT MIRO** 1210KG  
**MTPLM** 1355KG  
**LAYOUT** CLASSIC  
TWO-BERTH WITH END  
SHOWER ROOM

## 8 COACHMAN VISION 450/2

CARAVANWISE  
INSURANCE  
QUOTE  
**£169.80**



Although there's a preponderance of Baileys here, you can find other makes, like this Coachman Vision.

Vision is Coachman's lightest weight range, and this one is the larger of the two that are tailor-made for two people. It's ideal for buyers looking for a caravan with a big kitchen-dresser area and a very large shower room.

The wardrobe within the shower room is huge, with three shelves next to the hanging space, plus two wide drawers beneath. Floor space in the shower room is generous, which is typical of Coachman caravans. And we particularly like the fabric scheme, with plain fawn, tactile seating material teamed with four

#### THE CONDITION

*Another fine example of a used caravan in excellent order, with pristine fabrics and carpet, and kitchen appliances that look as new. Only a bit of staining and scratching in the base of the sink evidences use, and that definitely would not deter us from buying this lovely caravan.*



terracotta-patterned cushions. The same outline flower-and-stem design is on the top sections of the armrests, too, and the whole effect is really rather stunning.

## 9 SWIFT CHALLENGER SE 480

CARAVANWISE  
INSURANCE  
QUOTE  
**£228.05**



Chipping Sodbury typically has a good stock of two-berth caravans. This one is comparable in weight and length with the Coachman we've just featured, but with one key difference. This Challenger has Alde heating, so would be an excellent choice if you're looking for a two-berth for year-round caravanning. The washroom has a heated towel rail as part of the Alde system. The surface area in the kitchen and on the dresser isn't as generous as those in the Vision, but this caravan has a lot going for it, especially the Alde heating.

Swift's popular big-poppy curtain and cushion fabric design appears in a warm red colour here, and also in other models in turquoise shades. We love it! This caravan represented very enticing value; a new Challenger 480 would cost you £17,375.

#### THE CONDITION

*This is another caravan in which we had to look hard to find signs of use. Eventually we did; there's a small amount of heat burnish around the hotplate! The Challenger 480 is a further example which demonstrates that Chipping Sodbury is a place to come if you're aspiring to buy new but are seeking a caravan that will save you money by comparison with the price of a brand new one.*

#### TECHNICAL STUFF

**YEAR** 2014  
**PRICE** £15,350  
**BERTHS** 2  
**LENGTH BODY** 4.4M  
**OVERALL** 6.6M  
**WEIGHT MIRO** 1166KG  
**MTPLM** 1287KG  
**LAYOUT** REAR SHOWER ROOM



## 10 BAILEY PEGASUS 624

CARAVANWISE  
INSURANCE  
QUOTE  
**£181.52**

From pure two-berths, to a model that will appeal to couples, but is actually a really big four berth. This van delivers easy twin-axle towing, too. Our final choice in this month's selection is a rather special caravan, for two reasons. First, it's a brilliant layout, with a large, U-shaped lounge, a big kitchen and a double bed. Secondly, this is an example of the first Pegasus series, which, in 2009, launched Bailey's



groundbreaking, wood-free Alu-Tech shell construction method.

This model features a clever room divider, with a slide-out portion, which reveals three small shelves (a spice rack, perhaps?). The dresser beneath is the place for your TV; you can turn it to face the bed or swivel it towards the lounge.



#### THE CONDITION

*The brushed steel hob is in perfect condition, as is the oven and grill. Previous owners of this caravan clearly didn't know that they could have prevented fine scratches in the base of the sink by putting a mat under the bowl, though; this caravan hadn't been supplied as new by Chipping Sodbury, otherwise it would have started its life complete with a sink mat! That's the only sign of use we could find in this superb Pegasus, though.*

#### TECHNICAL STUFF

**YEAR** 2011  
**PRICE** £12,075  
**BERTHS** 4  
**LENGTH BODY** 6.29M  
**OVERALL** 7.87M  
**WEIGHT MIRO** 1481KG  
**MTPLM** 1661KG  
**LAYOUT** DOUBLE BED, U-SHAPED LOUNGE





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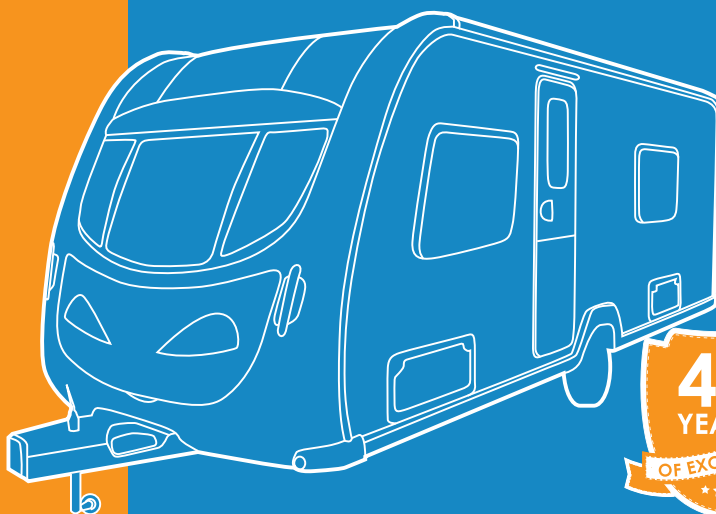
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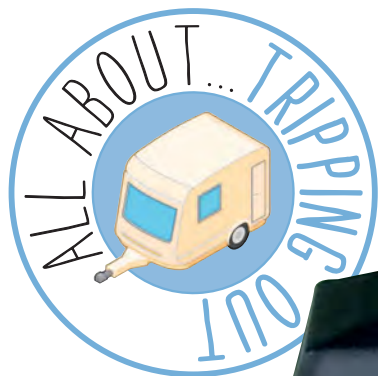
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# CURRENT THINKING!



*We've all overloaded our pitch mains supply at some time. Caravan reveals how to keep within your electrical limits, and how to calculate your electric current consumption*

**T**he caravanner who says he's never tripped out his mains electricity supply is a bit like the beekeeper who says he's never been stung. He's either brand new to the hobby or he's got a very short memory!

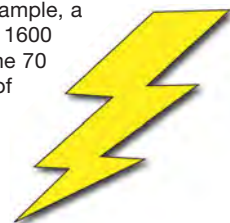
There is no doubt that a mains hook-up can add much to our caravanning comfort, but the site's supply can deliver only a fraction of the power we use in our houses. If we use too much, CLICK! – off it goes and we're left to sort out the mess.

Tripping the supply can make you unpopular, especially if you have to go and get a member of the site's staff to put the supply back on again. Worse still, you may even have tripped the supply to neighbouring pitches, too.

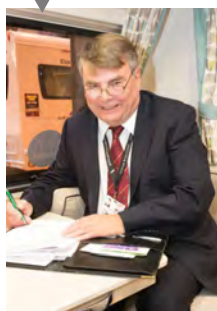
There are two ways in which you might trip the supply. The first, and most common, is through overload; in other words, taking more power than the supply can handle. The second is through an earth fault, which may be caused by a faulty appliance or cable. Earth fault trips often take out a whole bollard or section of the site, whereas overload trips generally just affect one hook-up. In this article we'll look at both and what you can do to avoid falling victim.

The typical supply to a modern house is rated at 80 or 100 amps but the best you'll see on a campsite is just 16 amps. Older campsites, and many continental ones, may have only 10 amps or even six.

With limited power to play with, we need to think carefully before switching something on. We need to have some idea how much power it will consume. As a rule, items that produce heat use a lot more power than those that don't. For example, a hairdryer rated at 1600 watts will consume 70 times the power of an 18.5in LED TV rated at 23 watts.



WRITTEN BY



**TERRY OWEN**

Technical expert, Terry Owen, is a hard-core caravanner, with a detailed knowledge of all aspects of caravan tech and touring.







## MICROWAVES CAN BE POWER HUNGRY

Microwave ovens can use more power than you might think, too. The reason is because their rated power is an indication of what goes into the food rather than what is taken from the mains, which can be nearly twice as much.

## A CARAVAN KETTLE SUCH AS THIS...



... uses about one third of the power of a domestic one. With all these things to bear in mind it can be difficult to know just how much current you may be drawing at any one time. As a rough guide, 1000 watts equates to just over four amps at 230 volts.

## i TOP TIPS

- If you have a TV that will run off 12 volts, power it that way. Then, if the mains trips during your favourite soap, you can carry on watching, courtesy of the leisure battery.
- If your supply is just six amps, never switch on more than one item at once; if 10 amps, two items and, if 16 amps, three items. This will minimise powercuts.
- British voltage is 230v, in Europe it's 220v. Just remember that...

**Voltage x Current (Amps) = Watts**

**Watts/Voltage = Current (Amps)**

## AT A GLANCE UK POWER GUIDE

APPLIANCE	WATTS	AMPS
Truma space heater (high/low)	2000/1000	8.7/4.3
Truma Combi heater (high/low)	1800/900	7.8/3.9
Alde boiler (3/2/1kW)	3150/2100/1050	13.7/9.1/4.6
Thetford cooker hotplate	800	3.5
Domestic fan heater (high/low)	2000/1000	8.7/4.3
Domestic kettle	2400	10.5
Travel kettle	750	3.3
Fridge	120	0.5
Small two-slice toaster	1000	4.3
Power supply unit for 12-volt equipment	700 max	3.0 max
Truma Ultrastore water heater	860	3.6
Whale Rapid Heat water heater	1500/750	6.5/3.3
Whale underfloor space heater	2000/1000/500	8.7/4.3/2.2
Small microwave	900	3.9
Sandwich toaster	750	3.1
Hairdryer	1600	7.0
Curling tongs	50	0.2
Fridge-freezer	220	1.0
Avtex 18.5in LCD TV	23	0.1
Laptop computer	50	0.2

Overload trips are controlled by miniature circuit breakers or MCBs. These are the modern-day replacement for fuses. Just like a fuse, they will tolerate a small overload for a short period, but will trip immediately with a large overload, such as may occur with a short circuit.



Three MCBs and an RCD on a Bailey caravan

By and large, every caravan has three MCBs, each feeding its own circuits. Unless an individual circuit is overloaded, they are very unlikely to trip. The most common scenario is when the combined current of the caravan's MCBs exceeds the rating of the MCB in the supply stanchion, causing it to trip-out.

## LOAD-MONITORING DEVICES

SUPPLY RATING	POWER AVAILABLE
16 amps	3.7kW
10 amps	2.3kW
6 amps	1.4kW

You can buy load-monitoring devices that measure the current at the supply point and relay the information to a display panel. Primarily designed for home use, to tell you the cost of electricity consumed, you can set them to show you the loading in kilowatts.

Current is measured using a sensor that clamps around one of the supply wires next to the meter. This is not as easy to arrange in a caravan so you may need an electrician to install the sensor.

Once fitted, you can see how much power your caravan is using and adjust it to stay within your limit. There may be a short delay in the information being displayed. To save battery life, transmissions are not continuous but made every few seconds.

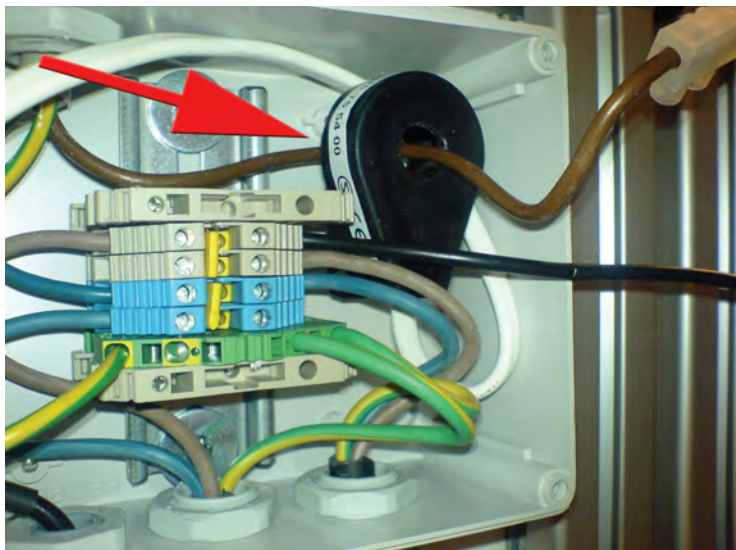
A wireless energy monitor





## LOAD-CONTROLLING DEVICES

### ALDE LOAD MONITOR



If your caravan has Alde heating you can invest in Alde's load monitor device (part number 3010-246). This consists of a sensing coil that is threaded through the live wire feeding the caravan. Installation should be by a qualified electrician.

It senses the current and sends the reading down a wire to the digital control panel where you can see it. You can then select the current rating of your supply in the range of five to 17 amps. If the set level is exceeded, the boiler is powered down in stages to prevent tripping of the supply.

Of course, it's still perfectly possible to overload and trip the supply but the Alde boiler will not be to blame.



### SWIFT COMMAND SYSTEM



For the 2016 model year, Swift has introduced a comprehensive power control system on its Elegance, Continental, Conqueror and Elite models. It includes a 230-volt current monitoring system that works in a similar way to Alde's load monitor, in that it switches off heating elements if a user-defined current level is breached. You can also see the mains hook-up current in amps.

### EARTH FAULT TRIPS

Earth fault trips are instantaneous. They have to be, because an earth fault could result in electrocution. In normal operation, the current in the live and neutral wires should be identical. All the current that flows down one wire should return via the other, having done its job in powering the kettle, the heater or other appliance.



LEFT: Alde's useful load-sensing coil

RIGHT: A neon tester will also help to protect you from electrical mishaps

BELOW: Swift's new command panel can show the hook-up current and control it. Here, the panel is displaying the current from a solar panel

When an earth fault occurs, some of that current leaks away to earth and creates an imbalance. It's that imbalance which is sensed by something called a Residual Current Device (RCD), which then trips the supply.

The amount of imbalance needed for a trip is very small, just 30-thousandths of an amp (or ampere, to quote the full name). This is designed to prevent electrocution as might otherwise happen if you touched something that had become live.



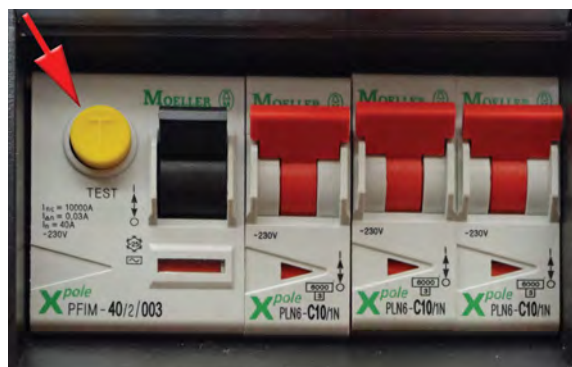
All caravans with a mains installation must have an RCD by law. The campsite supply also has to have such a device but it may be shared by more than one hook-up point so, if you trip it, your neighbours could be affected, too.

The most common cause of earth faults on a caravan is electric kettles. If your supply RCD trips the instant you switch the kettle on, the chances are the kettle is faulty and should be replaced.

If you can't positively identify and isolate the cause of an earth fault, do not continue to try to use the caravan's hook-up. Do get it examined by a qualified electrician as soon as possible.



BELOW: It's a good idea to operate the test button on your RCD each time you hook up





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# WEIGHT WATCHERS

MTPLM, MIRO, MAM, B+E & PEP. Caravan explains them all!



## WHAT IS MTPLM?

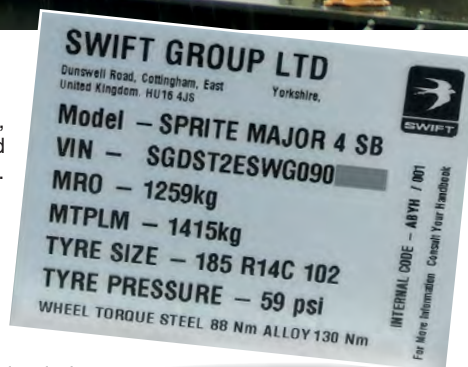
**M**TPLM stands for Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass. This is the maximum weight, determined by the manufacturer, that is deemed to be safe to load the caravan to. On UK-spec caravans, the MTPLM is given on a plate near the entrance door. The simple fact is that if your caravan is loaded so that it is heavier than the plated MTPLM, it may be illegal to tow and could invalidate your insurance. While the MTPLM is not a legal limit, it is

based on things which are, such as the axle rating and the load rating of the tyres. It is therefore best to treat it as a legal limit.

Craig Thompson, from insurer, Caravan Guard, says: "If it were proven that damage to a caravan was caused as a result of towing while overloaded, an insurer could refuse to pay out for repairs."

In some circumstances, it is possible to have the MTPLM

raised by what is known as a 'plate upgrade'; this is explained later.



## WRITTEN BY



### TERRY OWEN

Our technical writer, chartered engineer, Terry Owen, unravels the jargon surrounding the weighty subject of caravan loading.

## WHAT IS EX-WORKS WEIGHT?

Ex-Works Weight is the weight of a caravan as it leaves the factory. It is usually quoted with a tolerance in the range of 3-5% to allow for variations in manufacturing processes.





## WHAT ABOUT MIRO?

MIRO, or sometimes MRO, stands for Mass In Running Order. The term superseded Ex-Works Weight on caravan weight plates in 1999/2000.

The way MIRO is calculated has changed over time. Up to and including the 2010 model year, it did not have to include gas bottles, water in the water heater, toilet flush water, water in onboard tanks or the leisure battery. In practice, it was little different from the Ex-Works Weight quoted previously.

Clearly, this was unrealistic and so, for 2011, the rules changed so that all of the above, apart from the leisure battery, had to be included. If an onboard water tank had a capacity of 30 litres it had to be assumed that it was 90%

full, thus adding 27kg to the MIRO figure.

It may seem strange that the leisure battery was omitted but in mainland Europe most caravans do not have leisure batteries as they are only ever used with hook-ups.

For 2015, the rules changed again, so that manufacturers can now specify how much water they have included in their MIRO calculation. This applies not just to storage tanks but to water heaters and associated pipework, too. Most manufacturers have elected to choose zero water, perhaps on the basis that they would prefer us to tow without any on board.

Your caravan's handbook may tell you how the MIRO has been calculated.

### A TYPICAL MIRO CALCULATION FOR 2011

Ex-Works weight	1400kg
Gas bottles (2x5kg BP Gas Light)	18kg
Water in the water heater	9kg
Water in the 30-litre onboard tank	27kg
Toilet flush water	2kg
Leisure battery (not included)	n/a
<b>MIRO</b>	<b>1456kg</b>

### A MIRO CALCULATION FOR THE SAME CARAVAN IN 2015

Ex-Works weight	1400kg
Gas bottles (2x6kg Calor Lite)	21kg
Water	0kg
Leisure battery (not included)	n/a
<b>MIRO</b>	<b>1421kg</b>

## WHAT IS THE PERSONAL EFFECTS PAYLOAD (PEP)?

The PEP is an allowance for those items a user can choose to load, that are not part of the essential habitation equipment or optional equipment. It is calculated using the following formula:  $PEP = 10L + 10N + 50(kg)$ , where L is the body length of the caravan in metres and N is the number of berths.

So, a five-metre, four-berth caravan should have a PEP of:  $10 \times 5 + 10 \times 4 + 50 = 140kg$

Typically, the figure of 50kg would allow for items such as these:

TV	3kg
Kettle	0.5kg
Bed linen	6kg
Crockery	5kg
Saucepans	3kg
Wastemaster	5kg
Aquaroll (empty)	4kg
Waste bin	1kg
Cutlery	2kg
Toilet fluid	2.5kg
Leisure battery	18kg
<b>Total</b>	<b>50kg</b>

## WHAT IS ESSENTIAL HABITATION EQUIPMENT PAYLOAD?

This is a figure sometimes used by manufacturers to allow for the weight mass of items required for the safe and proper functioning of the caravan.

This comprises items such as gas cylinders and water in the water heater. The leisure battery is normally included under personal effects; see the table above-right.

## AND OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT PAYLOAD?

These are items made available by the manufacturer over and above

the standard specification for the caravan. For example, a dealer special model will have extra equipment that might include thicker carpets than those on a standard caravan, or a wheel lock as part of the package. While such items are good to have, they do eat into the allowance for personal effects.

## AND THE USER PAYLOAD?

This is the difference between the MTPLM and the MIRO. It includes the personal effects and optional equipment allowances. When designing a caravan, manufacturers try to ensure that the user payload is at least the same as that required for personal effects; see the table above.

## IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE WITH CONTINENTAL CARAVANS?

TYP	HSP 465	HYMER AG
33 12 02 03	e1*2007/46*0286*	
FIN	WHY465A009930	
WHY465A0099301766	1600	KG
	1 - 1600	KG
	2 -	KG
	3 -	KG

Weight plates from Hymer caravans

Yes, continental caravans simply have a plate showing the maximum loading of each axle and a total figure. It is illegal to exceed this total figure. The plate is often located in the gas locker.

## WHERE DOES A CARAVAN MOVER FIT INTO ALL THIS?

The weight of a caravan mover counts as part of the personal effects payload. As a typical mover weighs about 30kg, it equates to quite a lot of clothing, or food and drink, which may have to be carried in the car instead of the caravan, or even left behind.

The same applies to fitted solar panels or satellite dishes. All these items permanently reduce the maximum weight of personal effects you can carry. And don't forget your awning. These can weigh in at a hefty 30kg.





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## IT'S A BIT CONFUSING. HOW CAN I AVOID OVERLOADING MY CARAVAN?

### ● THE EASY WAY

Take it to a public weighbridge. Typically, this will cost between £5 and £10 and you'll come away with a certificate telling you the weight of your caravan. There is a useful government website to help you find a local weighbridge ([gov.uk/find-weighbridge](http://gov.uk/find-weighbridge)) or simply type the words 'find weighbridge' into a search engine.

As an alternative to visiting a weighbridge, you can use a device such as Reich Weight Control. This is essentially a load cell that measures the weight of each wheel as you drive slowly over it and then adds them up to give the total weight of the caravan. If you regularly load your caravan to the gunnels, such a device can be a Godsend in keeping you on the right side of the law.

### ● BY CALCULATION

You can calculate how much your caravan should weigh by measuring the weight of everything you've put on board and adding that to the caravan's MIRO.

A set of luggage scales is ideal for this, along with some large bags to weigh many items at once. Don't forget to include the weight of the leisure battery and any extra gas, plus water not included in the MIRO calculation for your caravan.

If you think your caravan may be nearing its MTPLM, bite the bullet and get it weighed!



TOP: Reich Weight Control measures one wheel at a time

MIDDLE: When finished, it adds up all the weights to give you the weight of the caravan

BOTTOM: Luggage scales and some large bags can help you to weigh the contents of your caravan

## WHAT IS A PLATE UPGRADE?

In order for a caravan to be towed by a wider range of cars, manufacturers sometimes restrict the MTPLM to a lower figure than it needs to be.

If your towcar is capable of handling a heavier caravan and you want to carry

more weight, ask the supplying dealer if a plate upgrade is possible for your particular caravan. If it is, they will arrange it for you, and supply a new plate with the relevant paperwork. Be prepared to pay an administration charge for this.

LEFT: The MTPLM of this Elddis caravan is less than the rating of its axle, suggesting that an upgrade may be possible. The figure of 100kg is the maximum vertical loading of the hitch

RIGHT: This Subaru weight plate shows the car has a braked towing limit of 1945kg, maximum train weight of 3745kg, and maximum front and rear axle loadings of 1070kg and 1060kg



## DOES IT MATTER HOW I LOAD MY CARAVAN?

For safe and stable towing, it's not just the weight of the caravan that's important but how that weight is distributed within the caravan. Heavy items should be low down near the axle. Weight placed at the rear of a caravan may cause it to become unstable, especially at speed and in crosswinds.

For good towing stability a caravan should be loaded like this



## IS NOSEWEIGHT IMPORTANT?

Noseweight is the downforce exerted by the caravan onto the car's towball. It is essential to have some noseweight for stable towing.

The accepted figure for caravans is 5-7% of the MTPLM. A caravan with an MTPLM of 1200kg should therefore have a noseweight of 60-84kg, but the actual figure should not exceed the limits of the car, its towbar, and the caravan hitch assembly. Within these limits, the higher the noseweight, the better.

Most UK caravans have a maximum noseweight rating of 100kg. The towbar noseweight rating should be given on a plate on the bar itself. The car's limit should be given in its handbook. Noseweight can be adjusted according to how the caravan is loaded. It can be measured with a gauge or some blocks of wood and bathroom scales.



This towbar label shows a noseweight limit of 150kg



Reich noseweight gauge



Checking noseweight with bathroom scales

## WHY CAN'T I JUST TOW TO THE CAR MANUFACTURER'S TOWING LIMIT?

All cars approved for towing will have a maximum braked trailer weight stipulated by the manufacturer. In some cases this can be considerably more than the kerbweight of the car. Take, for example, a Ford Mondeo Titanium 2-litre Duratorq TDCi hatchback. This has a kerbweight of 1578kg and a maximum braked trailer towing weight of 2000kg.

The interesting thing is how the towing limit is arrived at. According to European regulations, a car's towing limit is the maximum weight at which: 'The vehicle towing a trailer must be able to start the combination - laden to its maximum mass - five times on an uphill gradient of at least 12% within five minutes.' In the case of the Mondeo above, this clearly

doesn't mean it's safe for it to tow a 2000kg caravan. There is also the question of achievable noseweight. For a 2000kg caravan, it should be 100-140kg but the Mondeo has a limit of 90kg.

A car's towing weight limits should be shown on its weight plate. This may be under the bonnet or on a door pillar. To find the kerbweight, you'll need to consult the handbook.





## HOW HEAVY SHOULD MY CAR BE?

Industry advice (and common sense) says the kerbweight of the car should always be greater than the MTPLM of the caravan. Ideally, the caravan's MTPLM should not exceed 85% of the car's kerbweight, although experienced towcar drivers can take it to 100%. If you go beyond this, the outfit is likely to become unstable at speed and may be considered unroadworthy by the police.

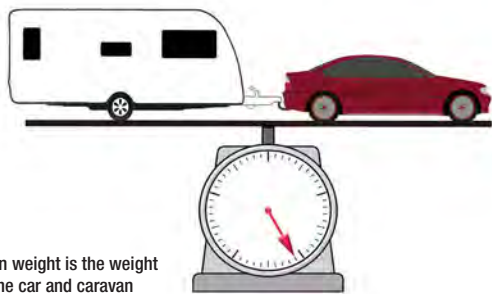
Regardless of the weight ratio, it always makes sense to carry heavy items, such as awnings, in the towcar whenever possible. The heavier the towcar is compared to the caravan, the more stable the outfit will be.



For stability, the towcar should always be heavier than the caravan

## WHAT IS GROSS TRAIN WEIGHT (GTW)?

GTW is the maximum combined weight of the car and caravan. It is a legal limit, which should be stated by the car manufacturer for newer cars. It may be the sum of the car's Gross Vehicle Weight and Towing Limit or it may be set lower than this.



Train weight is the weight of the car and caravan

## TOWCAR MATCHING SERVICES

If you're thinking of changing your car or caravan, it makes sense to use a towcar matching service. These hold a large database of car and caravan weights and can quickly find suitable matches from a given starting point such as a particular car or caravan.

Caravan's outandaboutlive website has a Towmatch service; go to [outandaboutlive.co.uk/caravans/towmatch](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk/caravans/towmatch). You can put in the details of your car and a list of caravans suitable for it will pop up.

Members of the two big Clubs can take advantage of their online matching services, too, or you can use the NCC's TowCheck service, for which there is a charge.



## WHAT ABOUT DRIVING LICENCE RESTRICTIONS WHEN TOWING?

Contrary to what some believe, those who passed their test after 1 January 1997 can tow a caravan. However, the combined weight of the car and caravan (Gross Vehicle Weight plus MTPLM) must not exceed 3500kg.

To tow an outfit heavier than this, these drivers need to pass a further test to get a B+E entitlement on their licences. Once gained, they can tow trailers up to 3500kg provided the train weight of the outfit does not exceed 7000kg.

Drivers with tests passed prior to 1 January 1997 are generally entitled to drive a vehicle and trailer combination up to 8250kg. If renewing your licence at age 70, ensure sure you keep a copy of the old licence showing your entitlements. It has been known for new licences to be issued with some entitlements missing.

If you lose your licence for any reason, you will be treated as a new driver when it is eventually returned to you.



## TEN TIPS FOR SAVING WEIGHT

	TYPICAL SAVING
1 Take everything out of your caravan and put back only those items you will need in the immediate future. You could be amazed how much you've been carrying.	20kg
2 Carry one or more gas bottles in the car (always upright).	10kg
3 Carry the leisure battery in the car.	20kg
4 Drain the water system before towing.	12kg
5 If your caravan's table is heavy, invest in a lightweight one.	5kg
6 Carry security devices, such as wheel locks and hitchlocks in the car.	10kg
7 Replace pottery/china items with melamine, and glassware with plastic.	5kg
8 If your caravan has loose carpets, remove them. Make do with a couple of small mats.	10kg
9 Buy food and drink at your destination rather than taking it with you.	10kg
10 Invest in a portable solar panel rather than a fixed one. It doesn't need to be as big, and you need only take it with you when necessary.	5kg
<b>Total potential saving</b>	<b>107kg</b>



Melamine crockery is a great way of saving weight compared to china plates



Portable solar panels enable you to leave them at home on occasions when they're not going to be used



Draining the water heater and associated pipework can save more than 10kg in weight





## Approved Workshop



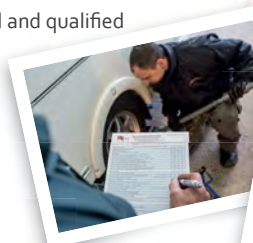
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# THE KNOWLEDGE

## EXPERT ADVICE

Our technical writer, Terry Owen, is a chartered engineer with a detailed knowledge of all aspects of caravan construction and components. He and his wife, Alison, use their Bessacarr 625 on a year-round basis.



## PRESSURE WASHER

I've just bought a new pressure washer and am having great fun cleaning my car and bikes. I would like to use it to clean my old Avondale caravan, but have read somewhere that pressure washers and caravans are not a good mix. Why is this?

**Sam Wilkinson, Stockport**

You are right to be cautious, Sam. The extremely high forces generated by pressure washers can dislodge the sealing mastics used to keep the weather out of your caravan. Water can be forced into body panels where it may eventually cause rot. Decals may be damaged and window seals breached.

If you must use a pressure washer to clean your caravan, make sure the lance is kept at least two metres from any surface and avoid the use of 'grit blaster' type lances that use a rotating pencil jet of water.



## WATER LEAK

When we use the taps on our 2006 Lunar Ariva the pressure is very poor and water pours from underneath the caravan on the front offside. We've checked that the winter drain valves are shut and investigated the pipework around the water heater, but can't see any problems. Any help or advice would be gratefully received.

**Russell Phillips, by email**

I've seen this before, Russell. The problem lies in the red vent

valve near the top of the Truma Ultrastore water boiler. The valve is connected to the hot water outlet and is designed to aid the draining down of the boiler by allowing air in. This is admitted via a clear plastic pipe which vents through the floor of the caravan.

It sounds as if your valve has become stuck in the open position and is allowing water out through the vent pipe. Fortunately, it's a quick job to replace the valve, requiring only a partial drain of the water system. Truma's part number is 34151-03.



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EXPERT



## NO HEATING

**We have a 2008 Fleetwood Heritage 640 CB. We can't get the heating to work, but we seem to have plenty of hot water. The radiators under the bunks and the fixed bed remain cold no matter what temperature we set the control panel to. What may be wrong and how much might it cost to fix?**  
**Beryl Shaw, Halifax**

Your caravan is fitted with the Alde heating system. This uses one boiler for both hot water and space heating. The fact that you have plenty of hot water suggests that the boiler is working fine. I think the problem with the heating is that the antifreeze fluid in the radiators is not being circulated. This could be for one of several reasons.

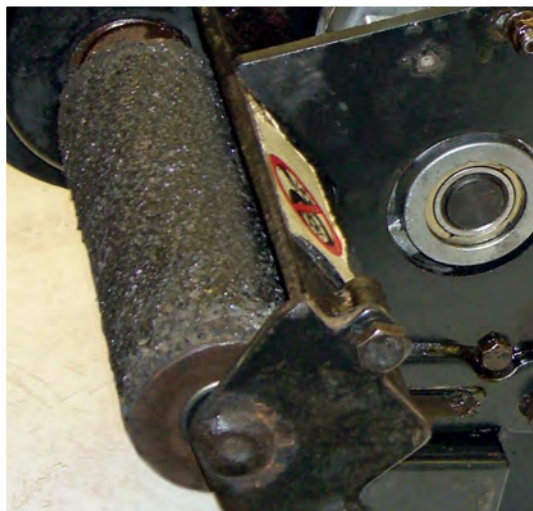
First, see if the circulating pump runs when you turn up the thermostat. The pump will be on top of the reservoir, which is probably located in the wardrobe. You should be able to hear it running. If not, the pump may not be getting power.



This is easy to check with a voltmeter; look for a reading of 12-13 volts. If you don't get this reading, you may need to get the system checked out by a dealer. If power is present, it is likely the pump is faulty. A new pump will cost about £110. It's a straight plug-in replacement with no tools required.

If the pump is running, there might simply be an air lock, in which case, bleeding the system could do the trick. Look for bleed valves behind the bunk cushions and between the bed mattress and the wall. If necessary, top up the fluid in the wardrobe reservoir with a 50:50 mix of antifreeze and water.

It's worth mentioning that the antifreeze in the system should be changed every two years to prevent corrosion of the boiler. This is a job best done by a dealer who has the necessary kit to flush out the old fluid, and replace it with new. You may also wish to consider long-life antifreeze which lasts for five years.



## @ EMAIL

Send your questions and any images to Terry by emailing [caravan@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:caravan@warnersgroup.co.uk)

## OR POST

Write to The Knowledge, Caravan Magazine, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9PH

## SMOOTH ROLLERS

**I have an old Truma caravan mover with gritted rollers. The problem is that they've worn smooth and now give poor traction. Is there any way I can get them recoated?**  
**Andy Mundy, by email**

There are abrasive coating companies who may do the work for you. One such company is Porcher Abrasive Coatings Ltd (01205 356666), based in Boston, Lincolnshire. Its bread-and-butter work includes brake tester rollers and abrasive vegetable peelers so your rollers should, hopefully, not be a problem.

Alternatively, you could purchase a DIY kit from Regrit-it ([regrit-it.co.uk](http://regrit-it.co.uk)). We have no experience of the product but the testimonials on the company's website read well.

## CHARGING CHECK

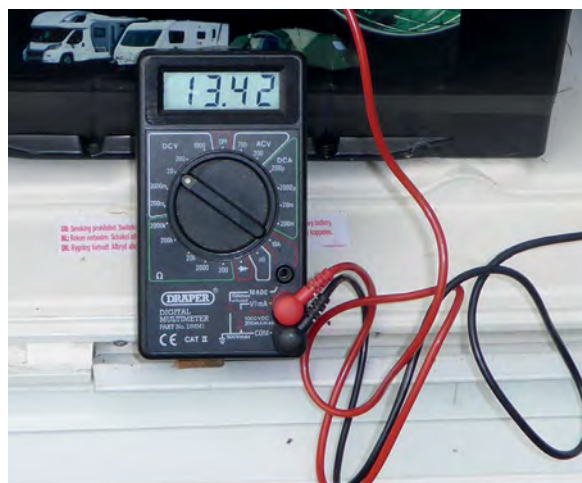
**Is there a simple way I can check to see if my caravan's battery is charging during towing? We do a lot of 'off-grid' touring so it's important to charge the battery between stops.**  
**Roger Handy, Melton Mowbray**

The simplest way is to use a digital voltmeter to check the voltage on the battery itself. With the car coupled up and the engine switched off, the voltage should be in the range of 12.0

to 12.9 volts. (If less than 12.0 the battery is discharged to a point where it may never fully recover.)

Keeping the voltmeter connected, start the car engine and see what happens. If charge is coming through, the reading will rise by a few points. If it doesn't, check the grey 12S or 13-pin plug, depending which you have, and also any fuses near the car's battery that might be supplying the wiring to the caravan.

If the battery still does not charge, I'd get a towbar fitter or auto electrician to check everything out.





# Caravans

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The White Arches Caravans Group celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2012/13. With joint Managing Directors, Steve Sharpe and brother-in-law Nick White, supported by their wives, Diane Sharpe and Jo White, they are very proud to still be a family business.

The company has grown over the years to become one of the most successful and respected caravan dealerships in the country.

The business, which now employs over 70 members of staff, has three branches. Whichever one you choose, the White Arches teams apply the same level of care, skill and passion, whether they're selling you a new or used caravan, a new accessory or maintaining your existing tourer.

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#### Swift Challenger 530 SE

Alloy wheels, One piece Aluminum side panel, Alarm, Extractor fan, TV Directional Aerial, Stereo system, Oven, Mains electric, Water heater, Solar panel, 6 year water ingress warranty, Blinds, External gas BBQ point, Loose fit carpets, End Washroom

**£17,995**



#### Bailey Unicorn Vigo S2

Alloy wheels, Wet central heating system, Hitch head stabiliser, Microwave, Stereo system, Oven, Mains electric, Water heater, Shower, Blinds, External gas BBQ point, Door flyscreen, Spare wheel, End Washroom, GRP side panels, Fixed Bed, Alarm

**£17,795**



#### Sterling Elite Emerald

Onboard water tank, Blowndair heating, Microwave, 6 month warranty, Heater, Mains electric, Water heater, Shower, Blinds, External gas BBQ point, Door flyscreen, Loose fit carpets, End Washroom, Alloy wheels, Hitch head stabiliser

**£11,495**



#### Lunar Lexion SE

Alloy wheels, Fixed Bed, Microwave, Freezer, Fridge Oven, Heki rooflight, Cassette toilet, Motor mover, Blinds, External gas BBQ point, Door flyscreen, Spare wheel, End Washroom, Blowndair heating, Hitch head stabiliser

**£11,495**



#### Elddis Odyssey 544

Blowndair heating, Fixed Bed, Microwave, 6 month warranty, Fridge, Oven, Heki rooflight, Cassette toilet, Battery Charger, Blinds, External gas BBQ point, Door flyscreen, Loose fit carpets, Alloy wheels, End Bedroom, Hitch head stabiliser

**£11,995**



#### Sterling Eccles Sport 544 SR

Alloy wheels, Microwave, 6 month warranty, Fridge, Oven, Mains electric, Water heater, Shower, Blinds, Part exchange welcome, Loose fit carpets, End Washroom, Blowndair heating, TV Directional Aerial, Stereo system, Heater, Sun roof

**£13,495**



#### Sprite Archway Sudborough

Blowndair heating, Fixed Bed, TV Directional Aerial, Fridge, Sun roof, Heki rooflight, Cassette toilet, Motor mover, Blinds, Part exchange welcome, Spare wheel, End Washroom, One piece Aluminum side panel, Twin axle, 6 month warranty, Oven

**£16,995**



## Robsons Caravans

Wolsingham-based Robsons calls itself the north-east's friendly, family dealership for touring caravans and motorhomes.

It has a varied stock of touring caravans on display to suit everyone, from the budget first-time buyer to the more experienced caravanner who's looking for luxury.

Robsons of Wolsingham is easily accessible from North Yorkshire, Teesside, Durham, Sunderland, Newcastle, Hexham, Consett, Cumbria and the Scottish Borders.

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### Sterling Eccles Solitaire SR

4 berth, single axle, unladen weight 22cwt / 1110kg, body length guide only 16ft. LAYOUT: front straight seats, mid kitchen, two fixed single beds, end washroom.

£13,950



### Bailey Olympus 546

6 berth, single axle, unladen weight 25cwt / 1225kg, body length guide only 19ft. LAYOUT: front seats, mid kitchen, washroom, end triple bunk and dinette.

£12,950



### Lunar Zenith EB

4 berth, single axle, unladen weight 21cwt / 1025kg, body length guide only 19ft. LAYOUT: front straight seats, mid kitchen, end double bed, corner washroom.

£7995



### Büster S Class S520TL

4 berth, single axle, unladen weight 25cwt / 1250kg, body length guide only 19ft. LAYOUT: front straight seats, mid kitchen, dinette with bunk, end washroom.

£7995



### Abbey GTS 215

2 berth, single axle, unladen weight 24cwt / 1185kg, body length guide only 16ft. LAYOUT: front straight seats, mid kitchen, end washroom.

£7995



### Sterling Eccles Topaz

2 berth, single axle, unladen weight 24cwt / 1185kg, body length guide only 16ft. LAYOUT: front straight seats, mid kitchen, end washroom.

£7995



### Ace Award Morningstar

4 berth, single axle, unladen weight 28cwt / 1370kg, body length guide only 19ft. LAYOUT: front straight seats, mid kitchen, dinette/bunk, end washroom.

£9950

## Marquis Leisure

Marquis Leisure has the widest range of dealerships in the UK, so you're rarely more than an hour or so from one of its branches.

All 11 branches hold excellent new and used caravan stock, plus tourers can be transferred between regions.

Current locations include: Berkshire & Surrey (01635 248888); Devon (01752 892977); Dorset (01202 738777); Durham (01914 922480); Gloucestershire (01684 296222); Hampshire (01489 860666); Lancashire (01772 731313); Northamptonshire (01604 402888); S Yorkshire (01909 565222); Suffolk (01473 747675) and Sussex (01825 873377).

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See left for contact details

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### SWIFT FAIRWAY 460

This special edition 2005 Swift Fairway model can be viewed at our Marquis Lancashire branch, the internal layout of front lounge which converts into either a double bed or two singles, central kitchen and an end bathroom with separate shower.

£5495



### COMPASS OMEGA 482

This 2006 Compass Omega 482 2 berth end bathroom, has an internal layout of front lounge, Standard specification consists of gas/electric blown air heating, gas/electric hot water, separate shower, cassette toilet.

£6995



### ELDDIS AFFINITY 530

This lovely Elddis Affinity 530 can be viewed at our Marquis Durham branch. The internal layout consists of a front lounge area, which when converted makes into a large double bed. In the middle of the caravan is a spacious kitchen.

£14,995



### SWIFT CHALLENGER SPORT 442

The 2013 Challenger Sport 442 comprises of a front lounge with 2 long sofas which provides single beds, a well equipped central kitchen with a full size oven & grill, a dual fuelled hob, refrigerator & microwave, luxury end bathroom.

£12,995



### BAILEY OLYMPUS 464

The Bailey Olympus 464 is a light weight fixed bed caravan with a layout that consists of a front lounge with two bench seats that make in to a good size double bed, a central kitchen, rear fixed double bed and side bathroom.

£10,995



### ADRIA ALTEA 360 LT

On display we have this Adria Altea 360LT 2 Berth caravan, this single axle caravan is very spacious and the layout consists of a large front lounge which can be used at single beds or a double bed, rear kitchen and a corner toilet.

£6995

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When you visit or phone Martins, you're assured of a warm welcome and its best attention. It's always willing to offer expert advice and experience.

Martins offers all the normal dealer facilities, and you can expect very competitive part-exchange prices on motorcaravans, caravans, cars and even motorcycles! Flexible and competitive finance packages are also available.

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### Lunar Stellar

2 Berth ('L' Shaped Front Layout), 4 Burner Hob Grill And Oven, 3 Way Refrigerator, Mains Hook Up, Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker, Gas/Electric Blown Air Heating, Washroom With Cassette Toilet And Shower, Gas/Electric Hot Water System

£4995



### Bailey Ranger GT 60 520/4

4 Berth, Rear Fixed Bed, 4 Burner Hob/Grill/Oven, 3 Way Refrigerator, Microwave, Mains Hook Up, Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker, Gas/Electric Heating With Blown Air, Washroom With Cassette Toilet And Shower, Gas/Electric Hot Water System

£8995



### Sprite Finesse 2

2 Berth(End Kitchen), 3 Burner Gas/Hob/Grill And Oven, 3 Way Refrigerator, Mains Hook Up/Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker, Gas/Electric Heating With Blown Air, Washroom With Cassette Toilet And Shower, Gas/Electric Hot water system

£8495



### Hymer Nova 545

4 Berth, Fixed Front Bed, Spacious U Shape Rear Lounge, 3 Burner Hob/Oven/Grill, 3 Way Refrigerator, Mains Hook Up/Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker, Gas/Electric Heating With Blown Air, Washroom With Shower and Cassette Toilet

£5995



### Sterling Europa Lux 545

4 Berth, 3 Burner Gas Hob/Grill/Oven, One Electric Hot-plate, Roof Mounted Extractor Fan, 3 Way Refrigerator, Microwave Oven, Mains Hook Up, Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker, Gas/Electric Heating With Blown Air, Washroom

£10,995



### Sprite Alpine 4 SR

4 Berth, Fixed End Bed, Wash Basin In Bedroom Area, Panoramic Sunshine Roof With Blind, 3 Burner Gas Hob/Grill/Oven, 3 Way Refrigerator, Mains Hook Up, Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker, Gas/Electric Blown Air Heating

£11,650



### Coachman Wanderer 13/2

2 Berth, 4 Burner Hob/Grill/Oven, 3 Way Refrigerator, Microwave, Mains Hook Up, Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker, Gas/Electric Blown Air Heating, Washroom With Cassette Toilet And Shower, Gas/Electric Hot Water System, Awning Light

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### Bailey Pageant Monarch S5

This Bailey Pageant is a luxury 2 berth with Full Width End Washroom. Features include Large Rooflight, Alko Stabiliser, TV Aerial, Extractor Fan and best of all a fitted Motor Mover. This used caravan for sale has only had One Owner from New.

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### Compass Omega 482

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This used caravan is a Flagship 'Crusader' model by Elddis. The Typhoon is the superb end washroom 4 berth with side dinette and end washroom. Probably the most luxurious and largest shower cubicle we have seen!

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£16,995





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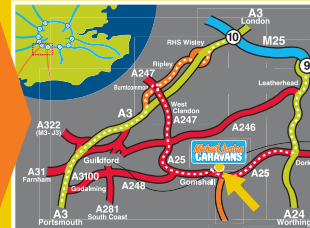
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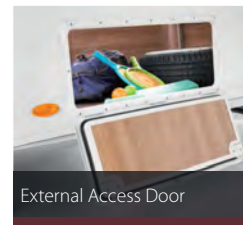
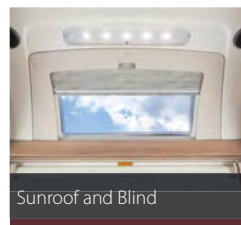




Using Swift's SMART intelligent construction system, unique styling, coupled with exceptionally high specification – the Lifestyle is the ideal starting point when considering a new caravan and really is in a class of its own.

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- **NEW** Triple front window panel
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- **NEW** GRP rear and hail resistant GRP roof
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- Omnivent
- External access door to front nearside of caravan
- Alarm with key fob awning light & LED indication
- Illuminated washroom mirror
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- Truma combi-boiler with digital programmable controller for heating & hot water
- Chrome sockets and switches
- 'Aralie SEN' woodgrain & contrasting furniture matches
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- Exclusive 'Duvalay Duvalite' mattress
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- Exterior BBQ point
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- Door flyscreen with easy concertina action
- Fitted Microwave
- Radio/CD/MP3 player with iPod connection
- Two scatter cushions
- Exclusive Lifestyle exterior & interior styling
- Exclusive door mat & mirror emblem



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Marquis Northampton 01604 402 888  
Marquis South Yorkshire 01909 565 222  
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Marquis Sussex 01825 873 377

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# PREMIER

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## Premier Parks 2016...

*...for the ultimate touring experience*

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Founded in 2008, the Premier Parks collection is a selection of high quality, independently assessed campsites where customer satisfaction is a top priority. Now in its eighth year for 2016, the Premier Parks group contains 100 of the top sites throughout the UK and Ireland. They range in size, location and the facilities offered, but one thing they all have in common is that they provide a first-rate experience worthy of the Premier Parks name.

So wherever your touring and camping adventures take you during 2016, you can rest assured you'll be in holiday-heaven if you choose a Premier Park.

Premier Parks is brought to you by Warners Group Publications the leading publisher of outdoor leisure magazines including MMM (*The Motorhome's Magazine*) and Caravan

The Maltings, West Street, Bourne PE10 9PH  
01778 391000



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01778 392050

### SYMBOLS KEY

	Cars can be parked alongside pitches
	Electric hook-ups available
	Showers
	Bottled gas available
	Shop
	Bar
	Restaurant/seated hot food outlet
	Takeaway
	Washing machine facilities
	Indoor games room
	Indoor swimming pool
	Outdoor swimming pool
	Fishing
	Dogs accepted
	Entertainment provided
	Wheelchair-friendly facilities provided

	Motorhome waste empty point
	Toilet facilities available
	Train station nearby
	Bus service nearby
	Storage facilities available
	Adults only
	WiFi available
	Online booking
	Accepts motorhomes
	Accepts caravans
	Accepts tents
	Has holiday homes
	Has lodges
	Has camping pods
	Has seasonal pitches
	Has fully serviced pitches



**PREMIER PARKS MAP..... 4**

**ENGLAND**

South West..... **6**  
South East ..... **49**  
East of England ..... **60**  
East & West Midlands ..... **69**  
Yorkshire ..... **76**  
North West ..... **80**

**SCOTLAND .....90**

**WALES .....98**

**IRELAND..... 111**

**RECOMMEND A PREMIER PARK..... 115**

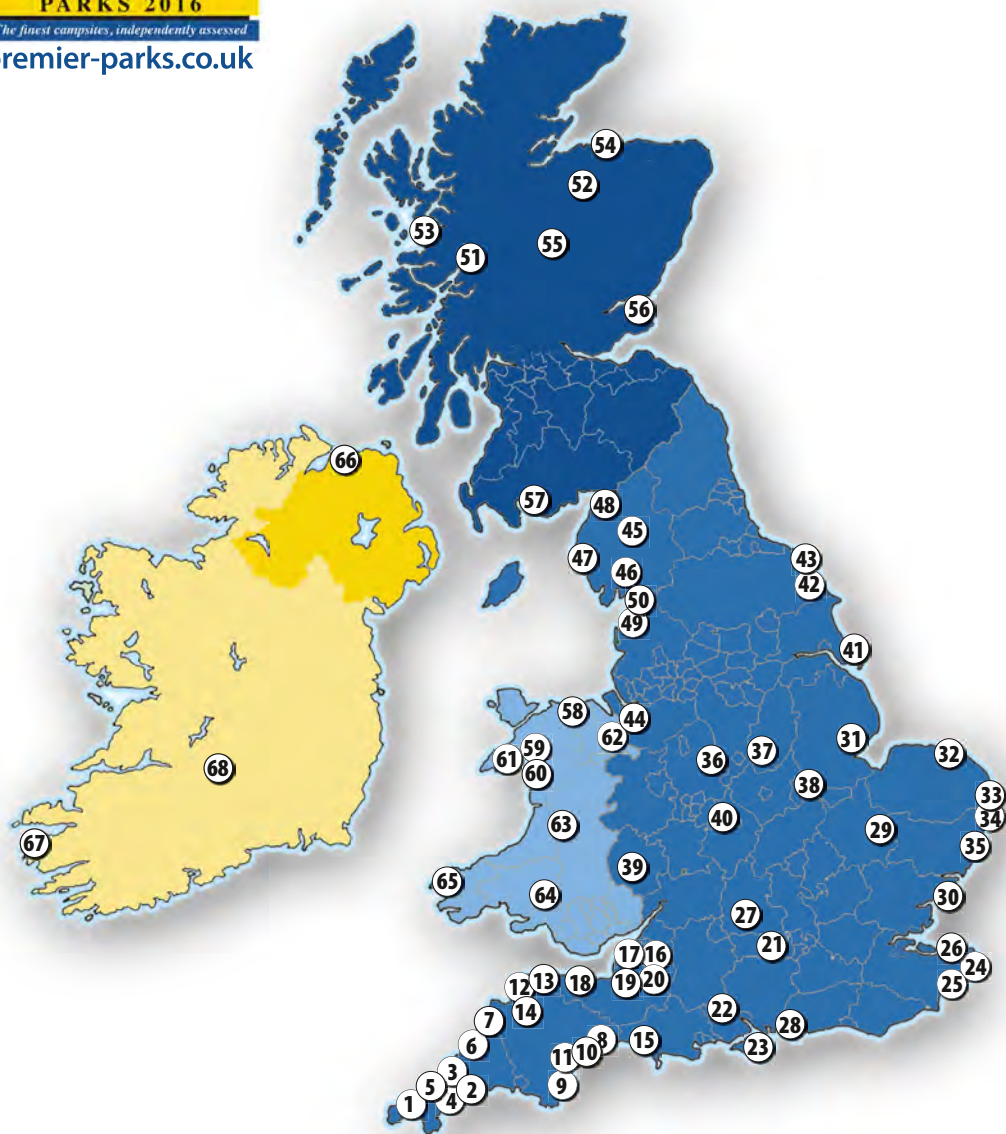
*Front cover image: Bath Chew Valley Caravan Park, Somerset*



*Back cover image: Glen Nevis Holidays, Scotland*









REGION	PARK	PAGE	MAP	REGION	PARK	PAGE	MAP
<b>South West</b>				<b>East Of England</b>			
Cornwall	Atlantic Coast Holiday Park	7	1	Cambridgeshire	Highfield Farm Touring Park	61	29
Cornwall	Carlyon Bay	8	2	Essex	Waldegraves Holiday Park	62	30
Cornwall	Cosawes Park	9	4	Lincolnshire	Long Acres Touring Park	63	31
Cornwall	Globe Vale Holiday Park	10	5	Norfolk	Kelling Heath	64	32
Cornwall	Heligan Woods	11	2	Norfolk	Vauxhall Holiday Park	65	33
Cornwall	Hendra Holiday Park	12	3	Norfolk	Woodhill Park	66	32
Cornwall	Meadow Lakes	13	2	Suffolk	Pakefield Caravan Park	67	34
Cornwall	Mother Ivey's Bay Holiday Park	14	6	Suffolk	Run Cottage Touring Park	68	35
Cornwall	Padstow Touring Park	15	6	<b>East Midlands</b>			
Cornwall	Pentewan Sands	16	2	Derbyshire	Longnor Wood Holiday Park	70	36
Cornwall	Pentire Haven Holiday Park	17	7	Derbyshire	Rivendale Caravan & Leisure Park	71	36
Cornwall	Polmanter Touring Park	18	1	Nottinghamshire	Tall Trees Touring Park	72	37
Cornwall	Porth Beach Tourist Park	19	3	Rutland	Rutland Caravan & Camping	73	38
Cornwall	St Ives Bay	20	1	<b>West Midlands</b>			
Cornwall	Trevalgan Touring Park	21	1	Herefordshire	Townsend Touring Park	74	39
Cornwall	Trevella Park	22	3	Warwickshire	Somers Wood Caravan Park	75	40
Cornwall	Wooda Farm Holiday Park	23	7	<b>Yorkshire</b>			
Devon	Andrewshayes Holiday Park	24	8	East Yorkshire	Sand le Mere Holiday Village	77	41
Devon	Beverley Park	25	9	North Yorkshire	St Helens in the Park	78	42
Devon	Castle Brake Holiday Park	26	10	North Yorkshire	Whitby Holiday Park	79	43
Devon	Cofton Country Holidays	27	11	<b>North West</b>			
Devon	Crealy Meadows	28	10	Cheshire	Elm Cottage Touring Park	81	44
Devon	Damage Barton	29	12	Cumbria	Castlerigg Hall	82	45
Devon	Dornafield Caravan Park	30	9	Cumbria	Park Cliffe	83	46
Devon	Hidden Valley	31	12	Cumbria	Shepherds Views Holidays	84	47
Devon	Ladram Bay	32	10	Cumbria	Stanwix Park Holiday Centre	85	48
Devon	Lady's Mile Holiday Park	33	11	Cumbria	The Quiet Site	86	45
Devon	Newberry Valley	34	13	Lancashire	Bay View Holiday Park	87	49
Devon	Smytham Manor Holiday Park	35	14	Lancashire	Holgates Silverdale Caravan Park	88	50
Devon	Warcombe Farm	36	12	Lancashire	Hollins Farm Holiday Park	89	50
Devon	Whitehill Country Park	37	9	<b>SCOTLAND</b>			
Devon	Widdicombe Farm	38	9	Highland	Glen Nevis Holidays	91	51
Dorset	Bingham Grange Park	39	15	Moray	Grantown on Spey Caravan Park	92	52
Somerset	Bath Chew Valley Caravan Park	40	16	Highland	Sunnyside Croft Touring Site	93	53
Somerset	Country View Holiday Park	41	17	Moray	Silver Sands	94	54
Somerset	Dulhorn Farm Holiday Park	42	17	Perth & Kinross	Blair Castle Caravan Park	95	55
Somerset	Exe Valley Caravan Site	43	18	Fife	Cairnsmill Caravan Park	96	56
Somerset	Fairways Holiday Park	44	19	Dumfries & Galloway	Brighouse Bay Holiday Park	97	57
Somerset	Holiday Resort Unity	45	17	<b>WALES</b>			
Somerset	The Old Oaks Touring Park	46	20	Conwy	Bron-Y-Wendon Touring Park	99	58
Somerset	Waterow Touring Park	47	18	Conwy	Plas Farm	100	58
Somerset	Wells Touring Park	48	20	Gwynedd	Garreg Goch Caravan Park	101	59
<b>South East</b>				Gwynedd	Hendre Mynach	102	60
Berkshire	Hurley Riverside Park	50	21	Gwynedd	Islawrffordd Caravan Park	103	60
Hampshire	Sandy Balls Holiday Village	51	22	Gwynedd	The Willows Abersoch	104	61
Hampshire	Shamba Holidays	52	22	Gwynedd	Trawsdir Park	105	60
Isle Of Wight	Appuldurcombe Gardens	53	23	Gwynedd	Tyddyn Llwyn Park	106	59
Kent	Hawthorn Farm	54	24	Gwynedd	Plassey Holiday Park	107	62
Kent	Little Satmar Holiday Park	55	25	Powys	Red Kite Touring Park	108	63
Kent	Quex Caravan Park	56	26	Carmarthenshire	Erwlon Caravan & Camping Park	109	64
Oxfordshire	Lincoln Farm Park	57	27	Pembrokeshire	Caerfai Bay Caravan & Tent Park	110	65
Oxfordshire	Swiss Farm Touring & Camping	58	21	<b>IRELAND</b>			
West Sussex	Concierge Camping	59	28	Co Antrim	Ballyness Caravan Park	112	66
				Co Kerry	Mannix Point	113	67
				Co Tipperary	Glen of Aherlow	114	68



# South West

Cornwall .....	7	Dorset .....	39
Devon.....	24	Somerset .....	40



*Parlock Bay, Exmoor, Somerset*

©Visit Britain/Adam Burton



**53 Upton Towans, Hayle,  
Cornwall TR27 5BL**

Near the coastline of St Ives Bay and fringed by dunes, Atlantic Coast Park is only minutes away from the sands of Gwithian Beach, which is popular with surfers and families alike. Head in the other direction and you'll find St Ives itself, which offers seafood restaurants and the Tate Gallery. On site there's a shop selling freshly baked bread, a takeaway serving hot food twice daily and a modern toilet and shower block (with accessible facilities). Fully-serviced pitches with 16-amp hook-ups are available. Atlantic Coast also offers free WiFi for all guests.



## Contact

01736 752071

atlanticcoastpark.co.uk

[enquiries@atlanticcoastpark.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@atlanticcoastpark.co.uk)

## Open

1 March - 6 January

## Facilities



4🚗 18🚗 ⛺ 20Hh 🏠 🏠 💰 FS

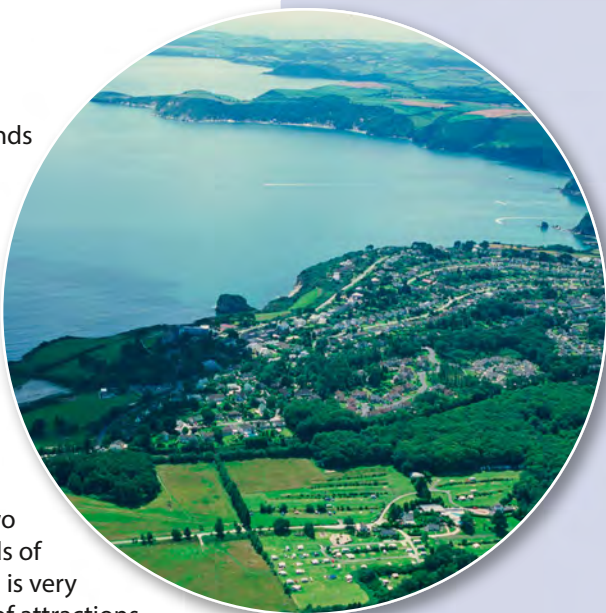
- ➡ Direct access to beach
- ➡ Shop and takeaway
- ➡ Bus service to St Ives
- ➡ Park WiFi
- ➡ Next to beach





**Cypress Avenue, Carlyon Bay,  
St Austell, Cornwall PL25 3RE**

**T**his beautiful family-run site abounds with exotic flowers, palms, and other trees on manicured lawns set in 30 acres of mature woodlands and meadow. There's a bistro on site with outside seating and outdoor heated pools. From the site Carlyon Bay beach is just a 10-minute walk, while 1½ miles further along the scenic coastal footpath is the historic port of Charlestown, home to working tall ships. The Eden Project is just over two miles away. Set in the 35-acre grounds of an old china clay quarry, this creation is very much at the top of the 'must see' list of attractions.



## Contact

01726 812735

carlyonbay.net

holidays@carlyonbay.net

## Open

24 March - 1 October

## Facilities

50  130   Hh    FS

- Close to a sandy beach
- Eden Project nearby
- Heated outdoor pools
- Free WiFi
- Bistro





**S**ecluded and quiet, historic Cosawes Park nestles in a beautiful and easily accessed 100-acre valley between Truro and Falmouth. Undeniably a very pretty location, Cosawes is open all year round and benefits from superb award-winning facilities and environs which regularly achieve 10/10 customer exit poll ratings. Centrally positioned between Truro and Falmouth, it's a great base to explore the county. Local supermarkets, eateries, public transport routes, cycle paths and walks make Cosawes the perfect location for a relaxing break.



cosawesttouringandcamping.co.uk  
info@cosawes.com

## All year

65 Hh FS

- Full service pitches
- First rate amenities
- Close to the sea
- Very pretty location
- Secluded and quiet





**Radnor, Redruth,  
Cornwall TR16 4BH**

**G**lobe Vale is a quiet countryside park, with five pennant gold from the AA, set in 13 acres with far-reaching views across rolling fields to the coast. Mature trees characterise the park, which offers plenty of open space for walking. There are excellent modern facilities with fully serviced pitches. For all guests there are showers, a laundrette and lounge bar with terraced area. For the little ones there's a games room and a play area. In the area is a nine-hole golf course, numerous pubs, restaurants and shops. The park is within easy reach of major attractions such as the Eden Project, Land's End, St Michael's Mount and Newquay.



## Contact

01209 891183  
globevale.co.uk  
info@globevale.co.uk

## Open

All year

## Facilities



25🚗 138🚗 ⚠️ 10Hh 🏠 🏠 🔔 FS

- ➡ Quiet countryside location
- ➡ Close to beaches
- ➡ Lounge bar on site
- ➡ AA five pennant GOLD park
- ➡ Fully serviced pitches





**Pengrugla, St Austell,  
Cornwall PL26 6EZ**

**H**eligan Woods has an open parkland feel about the main touring area with a number of more secluded pitches on the perimeter. The on-site facilities include a shower and toilet block with wet room, laundry, shop and children's play area. A few steps through a side gate lead to the entrance to the Lost Gardens of Heligan, where there is a licensed café/tea room and shop which can be accessed without the need to pay for entry into the gardens. With the Eden Project only 30 minutes' drive away and Mevagissey, Charlestown and good beaches almost next door, Heligan Woods makes an excellent base for this part of Cornwall.



### Contact

01726 842714

[heliganwoods.co.uk](http://heliganwoods.co.uk)

[info@heliganwoods.co.uk](mailto:info@heliganwoods.co.uk)

### Open

8 January - 20 November

### Facilities

81 81 21 30H FS

- ➡ Beaches close by
- ➡ Ideal touring base
- ➡ Lost Gardens of Heligan
- ➡ Beautiful, quiet site
- ➡ Five star quality rating





**Newquay,  
Cornwall TR8 4NY**

**B**oasting both the top five star and five pennant ratings, Hendra Holiday Park occupies an ideal location, minutes from miles of golden sand beaches, and has a fantastic array of superb family facilities. Choose from 12 spacious fields for touring, camping and motorhomes, equipped with award-winning facilities in 80 acres of landscaped parkland. There's lots to do on the park with free family entertainment daytime and evening, plus the Oasis indoor and outdoor fun pools complex, restaurant, cafés, pizzeria and traditional fish and chip shop and a supermarket. Everything you need for a fantastic family holiday is here.



## Contact

01637 875778

hendra-holidays.com

enquiries@hendra-holidays.com

## Open

27 March - 2 November

## Facilities



- ➡ Indoor pool complex
- ➡ Full facility park
- ➡ Family orientated
- ➡ Archery lessons
- ➡ Segway tours









**Trevose Head, Padstow,  
Cornwall PL28 8SL**

**T**his holiday park has direct access to its own private sandy beach. It is a large site with a variety of pitches including super pitches with sea views, water hook-up and drainage. The toilet and shower facilities include family shower rooms along with a separate dishwashing area. Trevose Golf Club adjoins the Park, with a club house and restaurant. North Cornwall abounds with places of interest and the walker and cyclist is spoiled for choice. Attractions for children nearby include Crealy Adventure Park, which is said to be one of Cornwall's largest attractions and is a must for all the family.



## Contact

01841 520990

motheriveysbay.com

info@motheriveysbay.com

**Open**

25 March - 31 October

## Facilities



100  100   270Hh    FS

- ▶ Private sandy beach
- ▶ Family shower rooms
- ▶ Next to golf course and restaurant
- ▶ Next to coastal footpath
- ▶ Surf school nearby





### Padstow, Cornwall PL28 8LE

**A**ward-winning 13-acre park with 150 pitches (40 on hardstandings and 135 with electric hook-up). One mile from Padstow with footpath access into the town. Two amenities blocks, both modern, well-maintained and clean. There is a family shower room, disabled facilities, dishwashing sinks and a laundry. Also on site are a children's play area, WiFi coverage and a shop selling groceries and camping accessories. The site enjoys panoramic views over the countryside and attractions in the area include Rick Stein's Seafood Restaurant, 'Seven Bays for Seven Days' and Crealy Adventure Park.

### Contact

01841 532061  
padstowtouringpark.co.uk  
bookings@padstowtouringpark.co.uk

### Open

All year

### Facilities



















40  130   Hh    FS



- ➡ One mile from Padstow
- ➡ Panoramic country views
- ➡ On-site shop
- ➡ Easy access
- ➡ Open all year





**Pentewan, Mevagissey,  
Cornwall PL26 6BT**

**P**entewan Sands is a 400+ pitch campsite on a privately-owned sandy beach. Facilities include The Seahorse, with two indoor heated swimming pools with flume and whirlpool, kids' fun pool, free WiFi, bar and restaurant with sea views. In peak season there's entertainment for adults and activities for the kids. On the beach is the Hubbox restaurant, as well as boat launching and water sports (peak only). There are four large modern toilet blocks, baby changing and disabled facilities, bath, privacy cubicles, laundry, covered dishwashing areas, takeaway food outlet, tennis courts, licensed supermarket, cycle and kayak hire.



## Contact

01726 843485

pentewan.co.uk

info@pentewan.co.uk

## Open

18 March - 30 October

## Facilities



- ➡ Right on the beach
- ➡ On-site leisure complex
- ➡ Bar and restaurants
- ➡ Beautiful surroundings
- ➡ Family-friendly site





10Hh FS

- Close to Bude
- Heated outdoor pool
- On-site shop
- Indoor pool
- Open all year





**St Ives,  
Cornwall TR26 3LX**

**S**ituated within walking distance of stunning St Ives, Polmanter Touring Park is an award-winning five star family campsite in an ideal location to explore the West Cornwall peninsula. Excellent on-site facilities include showers and toilets with a wheelchair-accessible suite and family showers. The main facilities are open from mid-May to mid-September and include an outdoor heated swimming pool, an on-site shop, bar, restaurant, takeaway and bus service to St Ives. The site also offers two hard tennis courts, a putting green, sports field and games room.



## Contact

01736 795640  
polmanter.co.uk  
reception@polmanter.co.uk

**Open**

25 March - 30 October

## Facilities



210🚗 210🚗 43⚡ Hh 🏠 🏠 💰 FS

- Close to St Ives
- Heated outdoor pool
- On-site restaurant
- Tennis courts
- Award-winning five star park





**T**he park is just 100 metres from one of Newquay's best family beaches. There are 200 beautiful, level grass pitches, (167 with 16-amp electric), 11 serviced pitches with TV hook-ups, and 15 hardstandings. The picturesque layout, fringed with flower beds and palm trees, is set in a tranquil wooded valley bordered by a bubbling stream. The modern, immaculate, heated toilet block has privacy cubicles, a baby changing area with bath, and an outdoor covered dishwashing area, plus a large, modern laundry room with two wheelchair-accessible rooms. Porth is an ideal location for visiting Padstow and the north coast of Cornwall.



01637 876531  
porthbeach.co.uk  
info@porthbeach.co.uk

1 March - 1 November

WiFi

200 200 176 30 2 FS

- ➡ Adjacent to beach
- ➡ Set in tranquil valley
- ➡ Good for Newquay
- ➡ Local pub nearby
- ➡ Close to family attractions





**73 Loggans Road, Upton Towans,  
Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5BH**

**S**t Ives Bay is located on one of Cornwall's finest beaches and the campsite setting is simply stunning with rolling dunes leading down to three miles of sandy beach and surrounded by acres of open dune land. The campsite offers a wide choice of accommodation including caravans, chalets and four-bedroom houses. They also have camping and touring pitches with excellent facilities and electric hook-ups. There are a total of five toilet blocks on the park which have toilets, showers, washing and dishwashing facilities.



### Contact

01736 752274

stivesbay.co.uk

enquiries@stivesbay.co.uk

### Open

14 April - 27 September

### Facilities

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🚗 200 🚐 🚚 🚛 🚝 🚞 🚟 🚠 🚡 🚢 🚣 🚤 🚥 🚦 🚧 🚨 🚩 🚪 🚫 🚬 🚭 🚮 🚯 🚰 🚱 🚲 🚳 🚴 🚵 🚶 🚷 🚸 🚹 🚺 🚻 🚼 🚾 🚿 🛖 🛗 🛙 🛚 🛛 🛜 🛝 🛞 🛟 🛠 🛡 🛢 🛣 🛤 🛥 🛦 🛧 🛨 🛩 🛪 🛫 🛬 🛭 🛮 🛯 🛰 🛱 🛲 🛳 🛴 🛵 🛶 🛷 🛸 🛹 🛺 🛻 🛼 🛽 🛾 🛿

- ➡ Over sand dunes to beach
- ➡ Lots of facilities
- ➡ Perfect for families
- ➡ Sea views
- ➡ Indoor pool





**St Ives,  
Cornwall TR26 3BJ**

**T**revalgan Touring Park in west Cornwall has had extensive investment in new facilities and is a campsite of rare quality. Great attention to detail marks this site as a favoured destination. With rugged moorland hills behind and the Cornish coast a short walk away, it is in an excellent location for St Ives and Land's End. Facilities are first rate with new showers, toilets, play room, and a well-stocked shop. There is a good network of footpaths in the local area, including the renowned South West Coast Path.



### Contact

01736 791892

[trevalgantouringpark.co.uk](http://trevalgantouringpark.co.uk)

[reception@trevalgantouringpark.co.uk](mailto:reception@trevalgantouringpark.co.uk)

### Open

28 March - 30 September

### Facilities



- ➡ Short walk to coast
- ➡ High quality, new facilities
- ➡ Bus service from entrance
- ➡ Fresh bread/ croissants cooked daily
- ➡ New play area for 2016





**Crantock, Newquay,  
Cornwall TR8 5EW**

**T**revella Park with its beautiful floral displays is one of Cornwall's finest five-star parks, boasting superb self-catering, glamping, touring pitches and facilities. Ideally located for discovering many of Cornwall's great attractions and only a short distance from the incredible Crantock and Newquay beaches. Touring pitches range from standard grass to Premium Plus pitches with first class facilities including free awning space. Park facilities include heated outdoor swimming pool with paddling pool, shop, café, laundrette, adventure playgrounds, crazy golf and two fishing lakes. Trevella is proud of its excellent reputation, ensuring that many guests return each year.



## Contact

01637 830308  
trevella.co.uk  
holidays@trevella.co.uk

## Open

21 March - 24 October

## Facilities



2700 75Hh FS

- ➡ Fishing lakes
- ➡ Caters for families
- ➡ Close to Crantock Beach
- ➡ Immaculate five star park
- ➡ Ranger activities during school holidays





**Poughill, Bude,  
Cornwall EX23 9HJ**

**W**ooda Farm Holiday Park is set in 40 acres of parkland with stunning views of Bude Bay and countryside inland, with many safe, sandy beaches within two miles. There are excellent facilities with plenty of open space, colourful flower beds, well-kept lawns and peace and quiet. On-site facilities include the Courtyard Bar and Lodge takeaway, shop, children's play area, tennis and badminton courts, fishing lakes and caravan servicing and accessory shop. WiFi access is available throughout the park. An ideal base for exploring the delights of Devon and Cornwall.



## Contact

01288 352069  
wooda.co.uk  
enquiries@wooda.co.uk

**Open**

1 April - 31 October

## Facilities



80🚗 120🚗 20⚠️ 55Hh 🏠 🏠 💰 FS

- Five star family-run holiday park
- Stunning sea views
- WiFi access
- Close to Bude and its beaches
- Caravan Club Affiliated Site





- ➡ Countryside location, close to beaches
- ➡ Indoor heated pool
- ➡ Residents' licenced bar and café
- ➡ Dog friendly
- ➡ On-site shop
- ➡ Toddlers' playroom and games room





**Goodrington Road, Paignton,  
Devon TQ4 7JE**

**B**everley Park has 86 grass pitches, with an additional 20 hardstandings and 42 all service pitches. On site there is the Starlight Cabaret Bar, Upperdeck Bar, Restaurant and Terrace, as well as a takeaway and poolside café. Kids are well catered for with children's clubs, a teen room, outdoor play area, letter-box trail, amusement centre, crazy golf, tennis court, outdoor and indoor heated pools. Adults will enjoy the sauna, steam room, hot tub and gym. There's also a shop and free WiFi. Situated in a perfect setting to explore the wonderful English Riviera, the park is less than a mile from the beach.



### Contact

01803 661961

[beverley-holidays.co.uk](http://beverley-holidays.co.uk)

[info@beverley-holidays.co.uk](mailto:info@beverley-holidays.co.uk)

### Open

All year

### Facilities

118 118 30A 185Hh 24 FS

- ➡ Family-run holiday park
- ➡ Beach nearby
- ➡ Free indoor pool
- ➡ Family entertainment
- ➡ Free WiFi





- ▶ Perfect location to relax and unwind
- ▶ Ideal for walking and cycling
- ▶ On-site bistro
- ▶ Pet friendly
- ▶ Seasonal pitches available





### Starcross, Dawlish, Devon EX6 8RP

A handy distance from J30 of the M5, Cofton has a stunning setting in a picturesque valley. Fantastic four-star facilities in clean, tidy surroundings now complete with a new indoor leisure complex, featuring a pool complete with sauna, steam room and gym (supplementary charge). Also has children's play areas, bar, restaurants, shop, takeaway and games room. Five coarse fishing lakes are a haven for wildlife, while a woodland walk to Dawlish Warren's Blue Flag beach offers views across the Exe Estuary. Large pitches, with hardstandings and super pitches. High quality toilet blocks with family and wheelchair access, plus laundrettes.



### Contact

01626 890111

[coftonholidays.co.uk](http://coftonholidays.co.uk)

[info@coftonholidays.co.uk](mailto:info@coftonholidays.co.uk)

### Open

All year

### Facilities

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🚗 450 🚐 66Hh 🏠 🏡 💰 FS

- ➡ Full facilities park
- ➡ Woodland walk to Dawlish Warren beach
- ➡ New indoor pool
- ➡ Five fishing lakes
- ➡ Super pitches





**Sidmouth Road, Clyst St Mary,  
Exeter, Devon EX5 1DR**

**C**realy Meadows is a family campsite situated right next door to Devon's Crealy Great Adventure Park, a family theme park attraction in the beautiful East Devon countryside. Crealy Meadows accommodates motorhomes, caravans and tents from March – November. Crealy Meadows is also well known for its glamping tents including luxury safari tents or the magical medieval tents. **BRAND NEW** for 2016 are the Safari Tents Plus and Luxury Lodges\* (complete with hot tub). For touring customers pitches are available as standard or super pitches and five-star modern facilities are provided. \*subject to planning permission.



## Contact

01395 234888

crealymeadows.com

stay@crealymeadows.co.uk

## Open

25 March - 7 November

## Facilities



- ➡ Ideal for families
- ➡ Next to an adventure park
- ➡ Five star facilities
- ➡ Luxury glamping
- ➡ Evening entertainment





**Mortehoe Station Road, Mortehoe,  
Woolacombe EX34 7EJ**

**W**ith its coastal location, Damage Barton offers sensational views, while it has all the expected amenities, plus a shop far more ambitious than on-site outlets usually are. Two heated toilet blocks are present, with facilities for disabled users and one of the area's popular pastimes is reflected in there: a wetsuit washroom is provided. There is also picnic area, a field for kite flying, dog exercise paddocks and a dog walk. Pitches have electric hook-up and most are hardstanding. There is also a Caravan Club members-only section.



### Contact

01271 870502

[damagebarton.co.uk](http://damagebarton.co.uk)

[enquiries@damagebarton.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@damagebarton.co.uk)

### Open

11 March - 30 October

### Facilities

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- ➡ Stunning coastal views
- ➡ Immaculate site
- ➡ Great site for walkers
- ➡ Wonderful wildflowers
- ➡ Sand and surf nearby





**Two Mile Oak, Newton Abbot,  
Devon TQ12 6DD**

**D**ornafield is a historic 14th century farmstead set in 30 acres of glorious Devon. The cities of Exeter and Plymouth and enchanting Dartmouth and Totnes are a short drive away. A shop, games room, TV, tennis court, children's adventure and dog exercise areas complement the award-winning facilities - think vanity cubicles, underfloor heating, spacious showers and climate control. The pitches are level and of a generous size, and all are fully serviced. All the attractions of the English Riviera and amazing Dartmoor are but a short drive away.



## Contact

01803 812732

dornafeld.com

enquiries@dornafield.com

## Open

11 March - 7 November

## Facilities

WiFi

135   Hh    FS

- Immaculate site
- Beautiful scenery
- Fully serviced pitches
- Games room
- Family run





**West Down, Ilfracombe,  
Devon EX34 8NU**

A beautiful secluded site in a wooded valley, among rolling hills of stunning Devon countryside. All 109 pitches (70 hardstanding) have 16-amp electric and TV hook-up. Four miles away are some of the country's most prestigious beaches, including the golden sandy beach at Woolacombe, and Croyde Bay, both of which have Blue Flag status. Overlooking the on-site gardens and lake is a delightful coffee shop selling cream teas. The site shop is well stocked and licensed. Two excellent modern toilet blocks with disabled facilities and family rooms. Two children's adventure playgrounds and a dog walk.



## Contact

01271 813837

hiddenvalleypark.com

info@hiddenvalleypark.com

## Open

All year

## Facilities

50  50  48  Hh    FS

- ▶▶▶ Wooded and secluded
- ▶▶▶ Coffee shop
- ▶▶▶ Close to Woolacombe
- ▶▶▶ Just four miles from sandy beaches
- ▶▶▶ Facilities include family rooms





**C**lose to the southernmost end of the M5, award-winning Ladram Bay is easily accessible and once you get on to the campsite you'll appreciate the spacious pitches. It's the location and facilities that will impress, though, with the excellent newly refurbished modern restaurant and bar. Its outdoor terrace provides beautiful panoramic views of the campsite's exclusive private beach on the East Devon Jurassic Coast. Facilities include a brand new indoor swimming pool complex, Jurassic themed adventure golf, and a full entertainment programme. Equally, fans of peaceful, rural sites will love Ladram Bay.

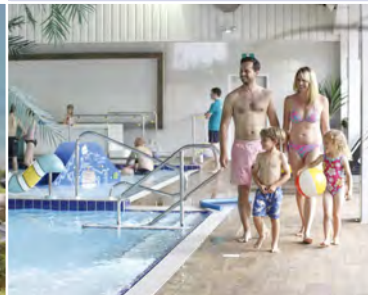
info@ladrambay.co.uk

11 March - 1 November

152🚐 152🚐 100⚙️ Hh 🏠 🏠 📢 FS



- Family-owned and run for over 70 years
- Private sandy beach
- Modern restaurant and bar
- Brand new swimming pool complex
- Five star holiday park





Offering 460 pitches, Lady's Mile is a family-orientated site located in Dawlish - just a short distance from junction 30 of the M5. It offers indoor and outdoor pools (both with large water flumes), a licensed mini-market, a takeaway, a restaurant and bar, plus a large games room and an impressive outdoor play area. There's also entertainment, a piano bar and pizzeria. Most pitches are situated on grass with electric hook-up available via pre-paid cards, and some pitches are serviced hardstandings. All are conveniently close to brick-built shower blocks. The site is less than a mile from the sandy beaches of Dawlish Warren.



01626 863411  
ladysmile.co.uk  
info@ladysmile.co.uk

## All year

WiFi

460
 
 460
 
 100Hh
 


 FS

- ➡ Family orientated site
- ➡ Outdoor pool with flume
- ➡ One mile from the beach
- ➡ Indoor pool with flume
- ➡ Entertainment





- ➡ Few minutes' walk to beach
- ➡ Great walks locally
- ➡ Coarse fishing lake
- ➡ On-site pilates/ yoga studio
- ➡ Therapeutic healing sessions





### Little Torrington, Great Torrington, Devon EX38 8PU

**T**his is a family-run park in the heart of North Devon, set in 23 acres of parkland. The touring pitches are set in the grounds of the old manor house with a variety of pitches available. On site is a heated amenity block, shop, bar, games room, play area and outdoor pool. Because of the parkland location, it is perfect for walking or cycling enthusiasts and the Tarka Trail can be accessed directly from the site. Attractions in the area include some great sandy beaches, the pretty village of Clovelly, zoos and farm parks, while RHS Rosemoor Garden is two miles away. A peaceful place to relax and get away from it all.



#### Contact

01805 622110

[smytham.co.uk](http://smytham.co.uk)

[info@smytham.co.uk](mailto:info@smytham.co.uk)

#### Open

19 March - 1 November

#### Facilities

45
 
 Hh
 7h
 2h
 FS

- Perfect for cyclists
- Outdoor pool and terrace
- Parkland location
- Dog friendly
- Access to Tarka Trail





110  110   Hh    FS

- ▶ Sea views
- ▶ 14 acres of woodland
- ▶ Close to beaches
- ▶ Private coarse fishing lake
- ▶ Direct access to the South West Coastal Path





- Family run holiday park
- Countryside location
- Free outdoor pool
- Café, bar, shop, craft centre
- Free WiFi





**A**n adults-only site, Widdicombe Farm is convenient to access no matter how large your leisure vehicle, as it's directly off a ring road. The site has 200 touring pitches (many all-weather) over eight acres of land. There is a small shop, restaurant, takeaway and bar on site. Evening entertainment is offered in the cosy bar at Easter and from Spring Bank Holiday to September. Pitches come in four grades, with the largest being suitable for RVs. The site offers easy access to Torquay, Paignton, and Brixham. Most breeds of dog are accepted.



info@widdicombefarm.co.uk

## 15 March - 25 October

180🚗 180🚗 20⚡ 3Hh 🏠 🏠 💰 FS

- ▶ Adults only
- ▶ All-weather sites
- ▶ Good access to  
Torquay and  
Paignton
- ▶ Over 50s discounts
- ▶ Restaurant and bar





**A**n adults-only park set within an authentic Victorian Grange, utilising the original honey stone barn as its award-winning facilities block, this site will appeal to the discerning visitor. The grounds incorporate rolling meadows, ancient woods and riverbanks, all accessible via the woodland trails and extensive dog walks. The resident chef prepares country fare (predominantly sourced locally) in the semi-formal restaurant and rustic lounge bar. Market towns of Bridport, Beaminster, and the coastal resorts of West Bay, Lyme Regis and Weymouth are an easy drive away.



01308 488234  
binghamgrange.co.uk  
enquiries@binghamgrange.co.uk

## 16 March - 31 October

120 FS

- ▶ Adults only
- ▶ Beach nearby
- ▶ River and dog-friendly woodland trail
- ▶ Seasonal pitches available
- ▶ Award-winning facilities





**Ham Lane, Bishop Sutton, Bath &  
NE Somerset BS39 5TZ**

**G**ood things come in small packages and for proof look no further than Bath Chew Valley, an adults-only site. While it may have just 35 pitches, each is set in its own little private area, giving the site a personal and intimate feel. The lack of screaming kids and the tranquil setting mean that it's a real winner for those seeking to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It's within 800 yards of a championship fishing lake and close to Bath, Bristol and Weston-super-Mare, plus the scenic Mendip Hills. With a pub and local shop within a short walk, it's a winner.



### Contact

01275 332127

[www.bathchewvalley.co.uk](http://www.bathchewvalley.co.uk)

[enquiries@bathchewvalley.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bathchewvalley.co.uk)

### Open

All year

### Facilities

35 35

- ➡ Adults only
- ➡ Booking essential
- ➡ Local shop, pub and restaurant within 250m
- ➡ Car hire available - by hour, day or longer
- ➡ Luxury solo bathrooms





**Sand Road, Sand Bay,  
Weston-Super-Mare BS22 9UJ**

**S**et just 200 yards away from the beautiful Sand Bay beach near Weston-super-Mare, Country View offers 120 touring pitches on a quiet and peaceful campsite that caters for families, in picturesque surroundings. Access to the site is excellent as it's only a few miles away from junction 21 of the M5. Facilities include a large heated outdoor swimming pool and a licensed bar with a sun patio. The toilet block has recently been refurbished and offers wheelchair-accessible facilities. There's also a laundry room, children's play area, an arcade and games room. There are restaurants near the campsite.



## Contact

01934 627595

cvhp.co.uk

info@cvhp.co.uk

## Open

All year

## Facilities



- ➡ Outdoor heated pool
- ➡ Close to beach
- ➡ Large dog walk
- ➡ Fabulous toilet block
- ➡ Weekend bar





**Weston Road, Lympsham,  
Weston-super-Mare BS24 0JQ**

**A** picturesque and relaxing retreat in the heart of Somerset. Easy access off the M5 makes this site handy for Cheddar Gorge, Mendip Hills and the beaches at Weston, Burnham and Brea. Level grassed pitches with electric hook-ups in a secure site with barrier access. Toilet blocks, showers, laundrette, washing up, two children's play areas and a sports area. Picturesque country walks. Awarded four stars from VisitEngland. Shop stocks camping essentials, open at peak times or on request. The site also offers seasonal and part-seasonal pitches, and CaSSOA Gold registered storage facilities. Holiday cottages available to rent. Static caravans for sale. Field for club rallies.



### Contact

01934 750298  
dulhornfarmholidaypark.co.uk  
dfhp@btconnect.com

### Open

1 March - 31 October

### Facilities



- ➡ Most improved Premier Park in 2014
- ➡ Set on working farm
- ➡ Close to coastal resorts
- ➡ Rally field
- ➡ Mendip Hills close by





- Adults only
- Sheltered millside setting
- In the heart of Exmoor
- Beside River Exe
- Peaceful





**F**airways has undergone a comprehensive refurbishment and development programme and now offers hardstanding pitches for caravans and motorhomes and is open all year. There are brand new toilet and shower facilities on site along with a laundrette and shop. WiFi is available and dogs are welcome - there's a walking area provided too. The caravan park is located in an elevated position overlooking the Quantock Hills and is only five minutes from the motorway making access easy. New Clubhouse coming soon.



## Contact

01278 685569

westcountryparks.co.uk

[fairways@westcountryparks.co.uk](mailto:fairways@westcountryparks.co.uk)

## Open

All year

## Facilities



- ▶▶▶ New amenities block
- ▶▶▶ Open all year
- ▶▶▶ Family-friendly
- ▶▶▶ Beautiful countryside views
- ▶▶▶ Dogs welcome





**Coast Road, Brean Sands,  
Somerset TA8 2RB**

**H**oliday Resort Unity in Brean Sands is the perfect place for a fun-filled holiday. The park offers a wide range of facilities and has pitches to accommodate tents, tourers, motorhomes and RVs. On site there are several places to eat, a well-stocked supermarket and a large entertainment complex where you can have a drink and food while enjoying a range of children's and adult entertainment. Nearby is Brean Leisure Park which features Fun City with over 40 rides and attractions, Brean Splash Water Park, Brean Golf Club and Brean Play - a new indoor softplay centre - guests at Holiday Resort Unity get discounts at all of these attractions!



### Contact

01278 751235

[hru.co.uk](http://hru.co.uk)

[admin@hru.co.uk](mailto:admin@hru.co.uk)

### Open

12 February - 20 November

### Facilities

350 350 150 150 FS

- Complete holiday village
- Family fun site
- Close to the beach
- Brean Leisure Park nearby
- All size units catered for





**Wick Farm, Wick, Glastonbury,  
Somerset BA6 8JS**

One of the best sites we've seen, with delightful panoramic views of the Mendip Hills, The Old Oaks is a top quality adults-only park less than a mile from the magical Glastonbury Tor. Beautifully landscaped, this site offers level pitches in a series of attractive locations. First-class facilities are complemented by a well-stocked shop and off licence, games room and pond with fishing platforms accessible to all. The site has a large dog walk, pool table, book exchange and footpaths to Glastonbury and the Tor. Free WiFi available. Little added extras: free walking maps, minibus service (main season), fish and chip night, doggy shower, discounts at local eateries.



### Contact

01458 831437

[theoldoaks.co.uk](http://theoldoaks.co.uk)

[info@theoldoaks.co.uk](mailto:info@theoldoaks.co.uk)

### Open

1 March - 20 November

### Facilities

97 97 10 Hh 6 FS

- ➡ Adults only
- ➡ Fishing/walking/ wildlife
- ➡ Panoramic views
- ➡ New premium pitches
- ➡ Superb shower facilities





**T**his open all year, multi award-winning, beautifully landscaped adults-only campsite is perfect for a peaceful and tranquil getaway. All 40 pitches are hardstanding, spacious, level with 16-amp electric hook-up and TV booster system, with privacy and lovely views of the surroundings. There are 26 fully serviced pitches plus WiFi broadband is available throughout. Motorhomes and caravans are catered for and the site offers clean five-star facilities. Dog friendly with a short riverside, woodland walk on the grounds along with many circular walks off site. There is a bus service that runs from outside the park, plus the local Country Inn is in walkable distance and also very popular.



info@waterrowpark.co.uk

## All year

🚆 45 🚆 8 ⚙️ 1Hh 🏠 🏠 💰 FS

- ▶ Adults only
- ▶ Open all year
- ▶ Tranquil and peaceful
- ▶ Walks on and off site
- ▶ Bus stop outside





**Haybridge, Wells,  
Somerset BA5 1AJ**

**E**xclusively for adults, this campsite is within walking distance of the historic city of Wells. Close by is the village of Wookey Hole, with its popular caves and mill. It's also central for visiting Cheddar Gorge, Bath, Weston-super-Mare, and Glastonbury, with the added convenience of a bus stop at the park entrance. The site has all-weather pitches large enough for units up to 14m long, along with cottages to rent and lodges to buy. Facilities comprise heated toilets and showers, disabled facilities and a laundry, along with a shop and beauty room. There is a pool/leisure centre within a mile with discounts available to touring park guests.



### Contact

01749 676869

[wellsholidaypark.co.uk](http://wellsholidaypark.co.uk)

[jason@wellsholidaypark.co.uk](mailto:jason@wellsholidaypark.co.uk)

### Open

All year

### Facilities

70 70 20 Hh FS

- ➡ Pitches for larger motorhomes
- ➡ Walking distance of Wells
- ➡ Adults only
- ➡ Open all year
- ➡ Great views of the Mendip Hills





A scenic photograph of a park, likely The New Forest in Hampshire. In the foreground, there's a grassy area with a large tree on the right. A path leads to a pond with a pebbly shore. Several people are walking on the path. The background is filled with lush green trees under a blue sky with some clouds.

# South East

Berkshire ..... 50

Hampshire..... 51

Isle of Wight..... 53

Kent ..... 54

Oxfordshire ..... 57

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*The New Forest, Hampshire*

*©New Forest Tourism*



**Hurley,  
Berkshire SL6 5NE**

**T**his family-run park alongside the River Thames is perfect for visiting the huge number of attractions in the South East while still feeling away from it all. They welcome motorhomes, tourers, RVs and tents on 10-amp grass or hardstanding pitches as well as 16-amp premium and RV pitches. Hurley has won a Gold David Bellamy award for conservation for over 15 years and facilities include heated shower blocks with family rooms, nature trail, playground, shop, laundrette, WiFi, riverside picnic grounds, slipway and fishing in season. Two-day LEGOLAND Windsor tickets are available at a great rate and discounts are available at many other attractions.



## Contact

01628 824493  
hurleyriversidepark.co.uk  
info@hurleyriversidepark.co.uk

## Open

1 March – 31 October

## Facilities



- Riverside setting
- Discounted two-day LEGOLAND tickets for sale
- Nature trail, children's playground, riverside picnics
- Slipway
- Perfect for Thames Path walks





**S**et in the ancient woodland of the New Forest, this year-round destination is an ideal retreat from city life. The three touring areas are in close proximity to the central Village Square, where facilities include indoor and outdoor pools, a pub, restaurant and shop. There are over 200 pitches, all hardstandings with easy access to shower, toilet and laundry facilities. What really sets Sandy Balls apart is its great programme of events for everyone to enjoy, from horse riding to archery, plus a host of kids' activities and entertainment in school holidays and at weekends.



0844 249 1184  
sandyballs.co.uk  
post@sandyballs.co.uk

## All year

WiFi

225 225 33Hh 127 FS

- ➡ Set in the New Forest
- ➡ Family activities
- ➡ Full facility park
- ➡ Spacious, fully serviced pitches
- ➡ Inviting pub on site





**Ringwood Road, East Moors Lane,  
St Leonards BH24 2SB**

**S**hamba Holidays is ideally situated to explore Hampshire and Dorset, and is close to the New Forest and Bournemouth with its fine beaches. Fishing, golfing and horse riding are available nearby. The park has 150 good-sized, well-drained pitches, all with electric hook-up facilities. There's a modern clubhouse with licensed bar, takeaway, games room and well-stocked shop. There's also an excellent 40ft heated swimming pool and toddlers' paddling pool with a clever sliding roof. Impressive modern toilet/shower facilities. Children's play area, large dog walking field and grey waste disposal point.



## Contact

01202 873302

shambaholidays.co.uk

enquiries@shambaholidays.co.uk

## Open

1 March – 31 October

## Facilities



150  150   Hh    FS

- Close to New Forest
- Clubhouse and bar
- Pool with sliding roof
- Children's play area
- Shop





**Appuldurcombe Road, Wroxall,  
Nr Ventnor PO38 3EP**

**A**n award-winning five-star holiday park set within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A selection of 40 static caravans situated within a secluded walled orchard. The touring, motorhome and camping area is situated within sheltered grassland, with upland views of Stenbury Downs. A selection of grass, hardstanding and fully serviced pitches are available, with a modern toilet block built to a high specification. Facilities include a shop, café, laundrette and children's playground. An outdoor heated pool is overlooked by the bar/lounge area. Instant access to footpaths, cycle and bus routes.



## Contact

01983 852597

[appuldurcombegardens.co.uk](http://appuldurcombegardens.co.uk)

[info@appuldurcombegardens.co.uk](mailto:info@appuldurcombegardens.co.uk)

## Open

1 March – 1 November

## Facilities

40H 40H 50A 40Hh FS

- Outdoor pool
- Walking and cycling trails
- Near Ventnor coastal resort
- Excellent public transport links
- Close proximity to island attractions





**Station Road, Martin Mill, Dover,  
Kent CT15 5LA**

**H**awthorn Farm's 28 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens contains some 5000 established ornamental fruit and woodland trees. The port of Dover is a six-minute drive away. Martin Mill station is nearby and within easy reach of Blue Flag beaches and the historic castles of Dover, Deal and Walmer. Fine golf courses, fishing, swimming, tennis and bowls are just some of the local activities available. A local public house serves excellent value food. Rated five stars by the tourist board and an AA award winner. All the normal on-site facilities are available, including a shop and café.

## Contact

01304 852658

keatfarm.co.uk

hawthorn@keatfarm.co.uk

## Open

All year

## Facilities



- ▶▶▶ Children's play park just around the corner
- ▶▶▶ Clifftop walks
- ▶▶▶ Dog friendly
- ▶▶▶ Grass and hardstanding pitches
- ▶▶▶ Near Dover and beaches





**Winehouse Lane, Capel-le-Ferne,  
Folkestone, Kent CT18 7JF**

**F**our miles from the Port of Dover and only seven miles to the Channel Tunnel, is the friendly campsite of Little Satmar. Part of the Keat Farm group, this small and welcoming park occupies a tranquil location. Along with static caravans, there is a separate touring field for tents, caravans and motorhomes. This field has its own WC block and dishwashing area. Pitches are separated by open fences and electricity is available. A full shower block is located near the reception area. Nearby Folkestone offers a harbour and seafood stalls, while Sandgate has quaint clapboard houses. The Battle of Britain Memorial is just one mile away.



### Contact

01303 251188  
keatfarm.co.uk  
satmar@keatfarm.co.uk

### Open

15 February – 15 December

### Facilities

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🚗 50 🚚 18A 75Hh 🏠 🏡 🏢 🏣 🏤 🏥 🏦 🏧 🏨 🏩 🏪 🏫 🏬 🏭 🏮 🏯 🏰 🏱 🏲 🏳 🏴 🏵 🏶 🏷 🏸 🏹 🏺 🏻 🏼 🏽 🏾 🏿 🏿

- ➡ Close to Dover Castle and Tunnels
- ➡ Ideal for Folkestone
- ➡ Battle of Britain Memorial nearby
- ➡ Clifftop walks
- ➡ Cycle paths





**Park Road, Birchington,  
Kent CT7 0BL**

**Q**uex is a picturesque, level and partly wooded campsite with a peaceful quiet atmosphere. A grocery shop and laundry are provided for the convenience of visitors. The lovely sandy beach at Minnis Bay is only two miles away, and the leisure and sporting activities at Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate and Sandwich are all within easy reach. A log cabin houses washing and shower facilities and there is a children's play area. The fascinating Quex House Museum and Gardens adjoining the park are well worth a visit. The campsite is a handy place for a stopover on your way to the Channel ferry ports.



## Contact

01843 841273

keatfarm.co.uk

quex@keatfarm.co.uk

## Open

15 February – 15 December

## Facilities

42
 165Hh

- ➡ Turner Contemporary
- ➡ Ramsgate Wartime Tunnels and Maritime Museum
- ➡ Dreamland Heritage Park
- ➡ Beach two miles away
- ➡ On-site café









**Marlow Road, Henley-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire RG9 2HY**

**P**icturesque campsite situated on the edge of Henley-on-Thames but set back from the Marlow Road which makes it very peaceful. The reception building contains a small shop selling some essentials as well as camping bits and toys. There is a nice café opening onto a terrace in front of the outdoor swimming pool. Being situated in the Thames Valley there are endless opportunities for day trips, while London is within easy reach as several stations are nearby. Henley town centre is only a 10-minute walk from the campsite with numerous options for eating out.



## Contact

01491 573419

swissfarmcamping.co.uk

info@swissfarmhenley.co.uk

## Open

1 March - 31 October

## Facilities



61  132   6Hh    FS

- Walking distance to Henley
- Outdoor pool
- Café with terrace
- Coarse fishing lake
- Bus stop at park entrance





New luxury touring park for 2015 situated on the Ratham Estate near Chichester in West Sussex. Fully-serviced hardstanding pitches surrounded by hedging to offer private pitches with 16-amp hook-up. Brand new luxury toilet and shower block, a laundry and indoor dishwashing area. Electric car hire will also be available. Local amenities include an award-winning pub, bus stops, a train station, shops and takeaway restaurants all within a mile radius of the site. Local attractions include award-winning beaches, Goodwood Estate, Portsmouth and the South Downs National Park.



01243 573118  
conciergecamping.co.uk  
service@conciergecamping.co.uk

## February - January

WiFi

15 Hh FS

- Luxurious site
- Ideal for Goodwood Estate
- Fully-serviced pitches
- Close to award-winning beaches
- Superb personal service





# East of England

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*Norfolk Broads Landscape*

©istockphoto\_mimic51



**Long Road, Comberton,  
Cambridge CB23 7DG**

Quiet and beautiful touring park located five miles west of the city of Cambridge offering 120 touring pitches. Set in eight acres of grounds, landscaped with conifers, hedging and trees, it offers excellent toilet and shower amenities and the careful siting of pitches around the perimeter gives a wonderful feeling of spaciousness. A 1½ mile walk around the farm provides attractive views across the peaceful Cambridgeshire countryside. There is a Park and Ride service nearby or a bus stop can be found a short walk away. Facilities on site include four modern toilet/shower blocks, a laundry, dog exercise area and motorcaravan service point.



## Contact

01223 262308

highfieldfarmtouringpark.co.uk

[enquiries@highfieldfarmtouringpark.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@highfieldfarmtouringpark.co.uk)

## Open

25 March - 30 October

## Facilities



- Close to Cambridge
- Countryside setting
- Dog exercise area
- Near to The Imperial War Musuems Duxford
- Cambridge University Botanic Garden nearby





**Mersea Island,  
Essex CO5 8SE**

**W**aldegraves is a great mixture of holiday homes and touring areas for motorhomes, caravans and tents. Attractive pitches are a feature at Waldegraves, with plenty of open space and hedging bordering each pitch, ensuring privacy for guests. A wide selection of self-catering luxury holiday homes available and there's a choice of electric, non-electric and hardstanding pitches. The park facilities include an outdoor heated pool, restaurant, bar and shop. There are also four fishing lakes, children's play areas, pool tables, a family arcade, entertainment venue, a private beach, a dog walking area, crazy golf, footgolf, a driving range and 18-hole pitch 'n' putt course.



## Contact

01206 382898

waldegraves.co.uk

holidays@waldegraves.co.uk

## Open

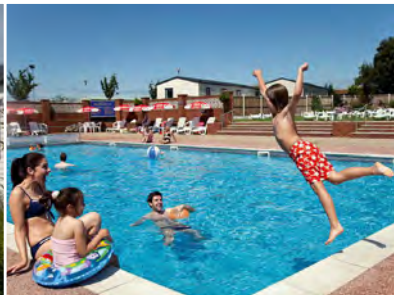
1 March – 30 November

## Facilities



60 60 28Hh FS

- Free entertainment
- Private beach
- Dog friendly
- Restaurant and bar
- Award-winning facilities





**Station Road, Old Leake, Boston,  
Lincolnshire PE22 9RF**

**T**his friendly, adults-only, 40 pitch touring site is situated in a rural area of south Lincolnshire near the village of Old Leake, surrounded by the Fenland countryside. The site is close to the market town of Boston, the coastal resort of Skegness, Lincoln, Mablethorpe, Louth, Stamford, Spalding, RAF Coningsby and Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre at East Kirkby. The fenland area, as its name suggests, is level and lends itself to those wishing to enjoy walking, cycling and fishing (various irrigation drains are local to the site – the Hobhole drain is just ½ mile away).



### Contact

01205 871555

[longacres-caravanpark.co.uk](http://longacres-caravanpark.co.uk)

[enquiries@longacres-caravanpark.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@longacres-caravanpark.co.uk)

### Open

1 March – 8 January

### Facilities

40 40 14 Hh FS

- ➡ Adults only
- ➡ Tranquil location
- ➡ All hardstanding pitches
- ➡ Ideal touring base
- ➡ Pub within walking distance





**Sandy Lane, Weybourne, Holt,  
Norfolk NR25 7HW**

**S**et a mile from the north Norfolk coast in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Kelling Heath is an environmentally aware 270-acre holiday park offering a wide range of countryside-based activities for all the family. As well as the usual amenities, which are all of a high standard, the park has a Village Square complete with village store, bar and restaurants. There's even a health and fitness club with a swimming pool, spa pool, sauna and steam rooms, plus a free outdoor pool. There's a choice of restaurants and various environmental activities and events take place, with live music in the Village Square.



## Contact

01263 588181

kellingheath.co.uk

info@kellingheath.co.uk

## Open

10 February – 2 January

## Facilities



- ➡ Set in rare heathland
- ➡ Walks and trails
- ➡ Environmental activities
- ➡ Magnificent views
- ➡ Base to explore Norfolk





**Acle New Road,  
Great Yarmouth NR30 1TB**

**T**his family-run campsite is Great Yarmouth's only five star holiday and touring park and the gateway to Great Yarmouth and the Norfolk Broads. The choice of accommodation is vast with over 400 holiday homes, 200 pitches for motorhomes, caravans and tents and new Mega Pods. Vauxhall hosts many live music weekends with artists of global reputation, pool weekends, darts events, and football tournaments. The facilities and entertainment on offer is vast, with a choice of pools, sports and plenty for children to do. Guests are spoilt for choice at Vauxhall. New XL premier pitches available with landscaped hedging, grey waste connection and TV.



## Contact

01493 857231

vauxhall-holiday-park.co.uk  
info@vauxhallholidays.co.uk

## Open

31 March - 31 October

## Facilities



- ▶ Five star entertainment every evening
- ▶ Ideal for families
- ▶ Close to the beach
- ▶ New Premier Pitches available (43ft square)
- ▶ Camping Mega Pods





**Cromer Road, East Runton,  
Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9PX**

**L**ocated in a cliff-top position between Sheringham and Cromer, with 250 pitches (205 are electric 16-amp pitches) including seven fully serviced pitches, no hardstandings. Luxury holiday homes with sea views are available for hire. Three modern, clean amenity buildings offer disabled facilities, family bathroom, and three family shower rooms. Dishwashing and a laundry room are also available. The small shop offers groceries and basic caravan equipment. There's also a children's playground, games field and giant chess/draughts. You can walk from Woodhill along the coastal path to East Runton and Cromer.



## Contact

01263 512242

woodhill-park.com

info@woodhill-park.com

## Open

19 March – 30 November

## Facilities



- Clifftop location
- Close to beaches
- Stunning views
- Close to Cromer
- Base to explore Norfolk





[info@pakefieldcaravanpark.co.uk](mailto:info@pakefieldcaravanpark.co.uk)

1 March – 31 October

 12  16Hh    FS

- ▶ Dog-friendly beach
- ▶ Restaurant, bar and shop
- ▶ Outdoor pool
- ▶ Free WiFi
- ▶ Pets go free





🚗 45 🚐 ⛺ 460 Hh 🏠 🏡 💰 FS

- ➡ Peaceful countryside location
- ➡ Suffolk's beautiful heritage coast
- ➡ Ideal for cyclists, walking and birdwatching
- ➡ Luxury glamping pods
- ➡ Dog exercising area





Dovedale, Derbyshire  
©Visit England/Visit Peak District

Inset: Warwick Castle,  
Warwickshire  
©Merlin Entertainments



# East & West Midlands

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**Longnor, Buxton,  
Derbyshire SK17 0NG**

In the Peak District, Longnor Wood is a five pennant, adults-only campsite that offers 47 pitches with 10-amp electric hook-up. You'll not go wanting for facilities here. In addition to the expected spotless heated amenities block (which even has a laundry room), the campsite has a shop, together with picnic benches dotted here and there, a putting green, and courts for playing badminton and boules. Longnor itself is a pretty little moorland town just over a mile away that offers several good pubs. Venture further afield, and you'll find Buxton, Chatsworth House and Dovedale all within easy reach.

### Contact

01298 83648

[longnorwood.co.uk](http://longnorwood.co.uk)

[info@longnorwood.co.uk](mailto:info@longnorwood.co.uk)

### Open

1 March – 10 January

### Facilities


















47  47  13      



- ➡ Adults only
- ➡ In the heart of the Peak District
- ➡ Good for walkers
- ➡ First rate amenities
- ➡ Large dog walk





**Buxton Road, Alsop-en-le-Dale,  
Ashbourne DE6 1QU**

Occupying a sheltered but elevated 37-acre park surrounded by spectacular scenery, Rivendale is ideal for walkers and cyclists and is just 100 metres from the Tissington Trail. Footpaths lead directly into Eaton, Alsop, Biggin and Dove Dales. Chatsworth, Alton Towers, National Tram Museum, Gulliver's Kingdom, Tissington, Kedleston and Haddon Halls are in easy reach, as are the charming market towns of Ashbourne, Bakewell, Buxton and Matlock. Underfloor heated toilet buildings, WiFi café, pub and restaurant with log fires, fly fishing, wheelchair-friendly lodges and B&B. Sailing, golf and bird watching nearby.



### Contact

01335 310311

[rivendalecaravanpark.co.uk](http://rivendalecaravanpark.co.uk)

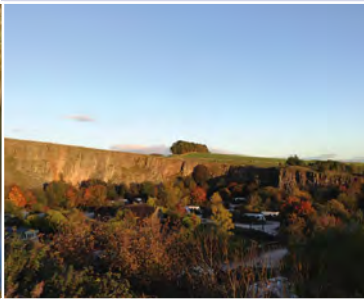
[enquiries@rivendalecaravanpark.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rivendalecaravanpark.co.uk)

### Open

1 February – 5 January

### Facilities

- ➡ Peak District setting
- ➡ Near Tissington Trail
- ➡ Pub, café and restaurant
- ➡ Numerous attractions nearby
- ➡ Variety of circular walks from site





**Tall Trees, Old Mill Lane, Forest Town, Mansfield NG19 0JP**

**T**all Trees is in a peaceful, semi-rural area, within walking distance of the amenities of a modern town. The touring park is open all year and can accommodate caravans, tents or even motorhomes up to 24ft long. The field reserved for pitches has open farmland on three sides. There are 37 pitches, all of which have electric hook-ups. There are modern and well-equipped toilet/shower facilities available and a fishing lake. Ideal for those with dogs due to the large grassed area.



### Contact

01623 626503

[talltreestouringpark.co.uk](http://talltreestouringpark.co.uk)

[info@talltreestouringpark.co.uk](mailto:info@talltreestouringpark.co.uk)

### Open

All year

### Facilities

37 37 ▲ 20Hh FS

- ➡ Open all year
- ➡ 16-amp electric hook-ups
- ➡ Children's play area
- ➡ Close to shops and family pub
- ➡ Fishing









### Townsend Touring Park, Pembridge, Leominster HR6 9HB

A peaceful and relaxed holiday awaits you on this award-winning five star touring and camping park located on the edge of Pembridge, one of Herefordshire's most beautiful 'Black and White' villages. The pitches are spacious and fully serviced. There's an immaculate facilities block with a large disabled washroom and family bathroom, while for the little ones there is an amenity area, play area and a cycle track through the woods. There is a dog walking area, a fishing lake and an on-site farm shop and butchers, which prepares the finest meat from Townsend Farm. Three pubs and restaurants are within a few minutes' walk of the site. BBQ and fire pits are available to hire.



#### Contact

01544 388527

[townsendfarm.co.uk](http://townsendfarm.co.uk)

[info@townsend-farm.co.uk](mailto:info@townsend-farm.co.uk)

#### Open

13 February – 5 January

#### Facilities

60+ 60+ A Hh H FS

- ➡ Rural countryside location
- ➡ Family friendly
- ➡ Carp fishing lake
- ➡ Restaurants/pubs within walking distance
- ➡ Fenced dog exercise area





**Somers Road, Meriden,  
Warwickshire CV7 7PL**

**S**omers Wood is an adults-only campsite, situated in beautiful countryside on the outskirts of Warwickshire. Ideally placed for a peaceful weekend break or - as it's the closest campsite - any number of shows or exhibitions held at the NEC. A large area is able to accommodate American RVs, the campsite facilities are superb and pitches are all hardstandings in open natural woodland. The campsite also offers WiFi service to all pitches. Next door is a golf course with a bar and restaurant open to visitors.



## Contact

01676 522978

somerswood.co.uk

enquiries@somerswood.co.uk

## Open

All year

## Facilities

48h 48h

48h 48h

- ➡ Adults only
- ➡ Online booking
- ➡ Open all year
- ➡ Adjacent to Packington coarse fishing lakes
- ➡ Takeaway food delivered to the park





# Yorkshire

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North Yorkshire .....78



*Dentdale, Yorkshire*  
©Visit Britain/Lee Beal



**E**njoying a unique location with private beach access, Sand le Mere caters for all the family. A wide selection of self-catering holiday homes and lodges are available and tents, tourers and motorhomes are welcome at this park, most pitches offering electric hook-up. Boasting a £4m refurbishment the on-park facilities include a leisure complex with indoor heated pool, splashzone, sauna and steam rooms, adventure play areas, entertainment lounge, restaurant, bar, café and takeaway, plus more. Bridlington, Scarborough, Beverley and York are all within easy reach of the park, making Sand le Mere a firm favourite on the East Yorkshire Coast.



01964 670403  
sand-le-mere.co.uk  
info@sand-le-mere.co.uk

## 21 March - 4 November

10 17 46 Hh 6 FS

- Family-focused park
- Private beach access
- Extensive facilities
- Just 30 minutes from Hull
- Full calendar of family entertainment





**Wykeham Estate, Wykeham,  
Scarborough YO13 9QD**

**S**et in the Wykeham Estate, St Helens in the Park is an attractive, established park situated on the edge of the North York Moors National Park just six miles from the seaside resort of Scarborough. Facilities are of the highest standard and include free showers with hairdryers, a well-stocked shop, and free WiFi. The campsite offers family-friendly and adults-only areas and has a large dog exercise field. Camping pods and seasonal caravan pitches are available, and the local pub is a short walk away. This is an ideal touring base for this popular area. Discounts are offered for OAPs and weekly visits.



## Contact

01723 862771

[sthelenscaravanpark.co.uk](http://sthelenscaravanpark.co.uk)

caravans@wykeham.co.uk

**Open**

15 February – 15 January

## Facilities



- ▶▶▶ Wooded walk to village
- ▶▶▶ Scarborough close by
- ▶▶▶ Shop and takeaway
- ▶▶▶ Two-acre dog walk
- ▶▶▶ Children's play park





**E**njoying a cliff-top location, with many pitches having a view of the sea, Whitby Holiday Park is one of the closest parks to Whitby. It offers pitches with 16-amp electric hook-ups on grass. Cliff-top paths lead down to sandy beaches, with Whitby and the ruins of the gothic abbey being a gentle stroll away. The site has a small games room and play area together with a bar, with evening entertainment at peak times. There's also a toilet block, shop and laundry room. Pretty Whitby offers a wide variety of shops, pubs and great fish restaurants (try the Magpie Café). No tents allowed. Free WiFi for all guests.



## 01947 602664

www.whitbypark.co.uk  
info@whitbypark.co.uk

## Open

1 March – 31 October

## Facilities



- ▶▶▶ Clifftop location
- ▶▶▶ Views of the abbey
- ▶▶▶ Close to sandy beaches
- ▶▶▶ Pets go free
- ▶▶▶ On site cinema





# North West

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*Blea Tarn, Lake District*  
©Blackphotography\_Kriszta



### Elm Cottage, Chester Lane, Little Budworth, Winsford CW7 2QJ

**T**his peaceful site, now under new ownership, is an ideal base for exploring Cheshire and is situated close to the A54. The site is well-maintained, spacious and offers 35 pitches (all with electric hook-up) with 32 on hardstanding plus 10 seasonal pitches. There is also a 6½-acre rally and camping field. The toilets and showers are spotless, with environmentally friendly features. There is a small shop at reception, plus you can pick up leaflets about local attractions. The Shrewsbury Arms, a traditional pub serving good food and local ales is a short stroll away. Elm Cottage is close to historic Chester which offers many attractions.



#### Contact

01829 760544

[elmcottage.co.uk](http://elmcottage.co.uk)

[booking@elmcottage.co.uk](mailto:booking@elmcottage.co.uk)

#### Open

All year

#### Facilities

32 35 25 Hh FS

- ➡ Close to historic Chester
- ➡ Pub within walking distance
- ➡ Ideal touring base
- ➡ Close to Delamere Forest
- ➡ One mile from Oulton Park Racecourse





**Castlerigg Hall, Keswick,  
Cumbria CA12 4TE**

**C**astlerigg Hall is one of Britain's most spectacularly scenic campsites, set in the heart of the English Lake District. Its elevated position provides wonderful panoramic views. The facilities are of a high standard with underfloor heating to one of the toilet buildings, privacy cubicles, laundry and a bathroom. The park's shop is well stocked with fresh bread, milk, papers and a wide range of other items. The restaurant on site is popular and open six days a week, serving locally sourced food, and a gallery displaying local arts and crafts is open most days. Castlerigg Hall is a pleasant 25-minute woodland walk to the centre of Keswick.



## Contact

01768 774499

castlerigg.co.uk

info@castlerigg.co.uk

## Open

11 March – 9 November

## Facilities



- ▶▶▶ Lake views and gallery
- ▶▶▶ Restaurant on site
- ▶▶▶ Keswick within walking distance
- ▶▶▶ Animal viewing area
- ▶▶▶ Heart of the Lake District





**Birks Road, Windermere,  
Cumbria LA23 3PG**

**S**et amid stunning mountain and lakes scenery, Park Cliffe is the natural choice for lovers of natural beauty. The 25-acre grounds, just above the eastern shores of Windermere, are home to an abundance of wildlife and are a delight to explore - perhaps whetting your appetite for a delicious snack or meal in the restaurant and bar (seasonal hours apply). As well as a great location the park features an adventure playground for children, games room, table tennis and pool table. There is also a well-stocked licensed shop, laundry and first-class shower units (with optional hire of a private bathroom).



### Contact

01539 531344

[parkcliffe.co.uk](http://parkcliffe.co.uk)

[info@parkcliffe.co.uk](mailto:info@parkcliffe.co.uk)

### Open

1 March – 12 November

### Facilities

WiFi

35 80 3Hh 7 FS

- ➡ Hardstanding pitches
- ➡ Restaurant and bar
- ➡ Close to Windermere
- ➡ Countryside setting
- ➡ Family-friendly park





### Drigg, Holmrook, Cumbria CA19 1XU

**B**eing close to Wastwater, the area surrounding Shepherds Views is noted for its beauty. It's also great for cycling and walking, with lots of great trails nearby (Hadrian's Cycleway passes the entrance). Less than 10 minutes' walk brings you to a sandy beach, perfect for the family. The site offers fully serviced hardstandings, together with a modern shower block. Camping pods, complete with heating and fire pits, were added for 2013. Local shops are just over a mile away at Seascale, while Ravenglass and Muncaster Castle are nearby. There's a pub within walking distance and an 18-hole golf course a mile away.

#### Contact

01946 729907

[shepherdsviews.co.uk](http://shepherdsviews.co.uk)

[contact@shepherdsviews.co.uk](mailto:contact@shepherdsviews.co.uk)

#### Open

1 March – 31 October

#### Facilities





















40  40  50  Hh   FS



- ➡ Sandy beach nearby
- ➡ Ideal for cyclists
- ➡ Pub under a mile away
- ➡ On site cycle hire
- ➡ Designated camping pitches with fire pits





**Greenrow, Silloth,  
Cumbria CA7 4HH**

**S**tanwix Park offers the holiday that has it all! Whether you love the seaside or want to explore the Lakes, Stanwix Park is the place. It's all on site... an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, gym, Jacuzzi, sauna, steam room, 10-pin bowling, WiFi, amusement arcades, café, shop, outdoor play park, tennis, crazy golf and bike hire. In the evening the Sunset Inn offers fantastic family nights of crazy fun, music, cabaret and dancing. The accommodation options include camping pods and fully serviced pitches for tents, touring caravans and motorhomes.



## Contact

01697 332666

stanwix.com

enquiries@stanwix.com

## Open

All year (except 25/26 Dec)

## Facilities



- In a scenic part of the Lake District
- Impressive range of facilities
- Two swimming pools
- Entertainment seven nights a week (March - November)
- Country Music Festival and Retro Music Weekend





**North West, Ullswater, Penrith,  
Cumbria CA11 0LS**

Come and discover a beautiful lake in a picturesque valley, surrounded by stunning mountains. The Quiet Site is a family-run campsite situated in a secluded position among the stunning fells that overlook Ullswater. Campsite facilities including an excellent pub are housed in 17th century buildings. There are many beautiful walks you can start from here. It is ideally positioned for touring both the north and south Lakes by car. Numerous attractions are just a short drive away. The campsite is easily accessible from the M6 motorway, with junction 40 being only seven miles away. Free WiFi. Lake views. Carbon neutral and award-winning park.



## Contact

07768 727016

thequietsite.co.uk

info@thequietsite.co.uk

## Open

All year

## Facilities



40  40  50  Hh    FS

- ➡ Ideal for walkers
- ➡ On-site rustic bar
- ➡ Views of Ullswater
- ➡ Green Tourism Gold Award
- ➡ Waterfall walk from the site





**A6 Main Road, Bolton Le Sands,  
Carnforth LA5 8ES**

**S**ituated in a rural setting on the picturesque Lancashire coastline, Bay View Holiday Park is an ideal base from which to explore the Lake District, North Yorkshire and Forest of Bowland. Once a working farm, the rolling green fields surrounding the campsite offer stunning views over Morecambe Bay, while providing a peaceful and tranquil retreat in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the outskirts of the coastal villages of Arnsdale and Silverdale. The original farm buildings have been sympathetically converted into a beautiful 100-seat bar, restaurant and shop. Playground and games room.



## Contact

01524 732854

[holgates.co.uk](http://holgates.co.uk)

[caravan@holgates.co.uk](mailto:caravan@holgates.co.uk)

## Open

All year

## Facilities

200 200 2Hh FS

- ➡ Open all year
- ➡ Coastal views
- ➡ Bar and restaurant
- ➡ Laundrette
- ➡ Children's play arcade





70 Hh FS

- 100-acre woodland park
- Full facility park
- Close to the coast
- 17m indoor swimming pool
- Bowling alley





**Far Arnside, Silverdale, Carnforth,  
Lancashire LA5 0SL**

**P**eaceful holiday park for caravans, motorhomes and tents situated in the heart of the Silverdale and Arnside Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A farm site overlooking Morecambe Bay, with lots of farm animals for children to see. New in 2012 were five-star stone-built heated toilet and shower facilities including a laundrette and small games room. It's a five-minute walk to sister park, Silverdale, where campers can make use of the leisure facilities, restaurant and bar. 10-minute walk to Silverdale village and the RSPB's Leighton Moss. David Bellamy Gold Conservation Award.



### Contact

01524 701508

holgates.co.uk

info@holgates.co.uk

### Open

14 March - 4 November

### Facilities



5\* 25+ Hh FS

- ➡ Rural farm site
- ➡ Use of facilities at Holgates Silverdale
- ➡ Modern, five-star shower block
- ➡ 10 minutes to Silverdale village
- ➡ RSPB Leighton Moss nearby





# Scotland

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*Mountain view of hills and lochs*

©istockphoto\_stuartmcgown



**Glen Nevis, Fort William,  
Highland PH33 6SX**

**S**et at the foot of Ben Nevis and offering wonderful views of the mountains, Glen Nevis is a four-star rated holiday park that is the perfect base for a walking or cycling holiday. It features 150 beautifully positioned electric caravan or motorhome pitches. You can even get full monty fully-serviced pitches and for added convenience there's a motorhome service point. They also offer holiday homes, lodges and cottages for hire. There's a restaurant and bar on site. Off site you can enjoy boat trips on Loch Linnhe, as well as sampling the delights of Fort William, which offers decent shops and bars.



## Contact

01397 702191  
glen-nevis.co.uk  
holidays@glen-nevis.co.uk

## Open

15 March - 5 November

## Facilities



40  40   Hh     FS

- ➡ At the foot of Ben Nevis
- ➡ Great base for exploring the Highlands
- ➡ Perfect for walkers/cyclists
- ➡ Fully-serviced pitches
- ➡ Restaurant and bar on site





**Seafield Avenue, Granttown-on-Spey, Highland PH26 3JQ**

**T**his immaculate site is in the Cairngorms National Park and is Caravan Club Affiliated. Everything here is of the highest quality. It has over 100 pitches for touring caravans and motorhomes and 70 are extra spacious super pitches that have water, waste, free WiFi and your own Sky box for excellent TV reception. The town is just a ½ mile away and there are great walks, beautiful scenery, delightful birds and wildlife all around. This park was recently voted the best site for caravans and the second best site for motorhomes in the entire UK! (Top 100 Sites Guide 2015).



## Contact

01479 872474

caravanscotland.com

warden@caravanscotland.com

## Open

All year

## Facilities



- ▶ Best in UK for Caravans (2015)
- ▶ Immaculate site
- ▶ Fabulous country walks
- ▶ Pristine modern toilet block
- ▶ Walking distance to town





**2 Bunacaimbe, Arisaig,  
Highland PH39 4NT**

**S**unnyside is a family-run site situated on the Road to the Isles coastal route between the villages of Arisaig and Morar/Mallaig. This West Highland coast location, with beach access, is ideal for exploring the area, or as a stopover when touring the Highlands and Islands. The site is close to the harbour at Mallaig, where there are ferry services to Knoydart, the Small Isles and the Isle of Skye. The site owners have added luxury facilities to this rural touring park, so you can have a relaxing holiday with all the comforts of home. The campsite holds a David Bellamy Gold Conservation Award and a four star VisitScotland award.



## Contact

01687 450643

[sunnysidetouringsite.co.uk](http://sunnysidetouringsite.co.uk)

holidays@sunnysidetouringsite.co.uk

## Open

March - October (November to February contact site)

## Facilities



- ▶ Luxury facilities
- ▶ Beach access
- ▶ Stunning scenery
- ▶ Free WiFi
- ▶ David Bellamy Gold Conservation Award





**Covesea West Beach,  
Lossiemouth, Moray IV31 6SP**

**S**ilver Sands is a seaside holiday park in Lossiemouth on the Moray Firth coast in the north east of Scotland. The name of the park comes from the sparkling three-mile stretch of beach that runs alongside the park. As well as a stunning beach-side location the park also has many first class facilities including an indoor pool, sauna and fitness suite, live entertainment, a restaurant and bar, shop and play area. There's also a links golf course right next door. From the park you can explore the Moray Firth where you might even spot bottlenose dolphins while enjoying the picturesque seascapes.



## Contact

01343 813262

silver-sands.co.uk

holidays@silver-sands.co.uk

## Open

18 March - 24 October

## Facilities



- ▶ Coastal location
- ▶ Full-facility park
- ▶ Golf course adjacent
- ▶ Family-friendly park
- ▶ Great base for exploring the area





**Blair Atholl, Pitlochry, Perth &  
Kinross PH18 5SR**

This picturesque park is at the entrance to the Cairngorms National Park in the village of Blair Atholl. Easily accessed from the A9 trunk road, it is just six miles from the town of Pitlochry with its excellent shops, cafés, restaurants, distilleries, and famous theatre. With views over Blair Castle and the highlands, this campsite is a Scottish gem. It is set over 30 acres with 280 touring pitches and five-star facilities. There are five heated toilet blocks with individual cubicles, baby changing and dishwashing. There's also a general store and a laundrette, while kids will love the playground, games room and putting green.



## Contact

01796 481263

[blaircastlecaravanpark.co.uk](http://blaircastlecaravanpark.co.uk)

mail@blaircastlecaravanpark.co.uk

## Open

23 February – 27 November

## Facilities



27🚗 248🚗 ⚠️ 20Hh 🏠 🏠 📢 FS

- ▶ Highland scenery
- ▶ Fantastic reception
- ▶ WiFi
- ▶ Land Rover safaris
- ▶ Pony trekking/rides and Segway tours





**Largo Road, St Andrews,  
Fife KY16 8NN**

**P**eaceful privately-owned campsite for motorhomes, caravans and tents, just over a mile from St Andrews. Large number of static caravans (most privately owned) and 33 touring pitches, all on hardstanding with electric hook-up. Tents accepted in a separate area. On-site shop, bar, games room and indoor swimming pool. The pool does not have a lifeguard on duty and is four feet deep throughout. Public transport available from outside the site to St Andrews. Dogs on leads welcome. Fly fishing available.



## Contact

01334 473604  
cairnsmill.co.uk  
cairnsmill@aol.com

## Open

1 April - 31 October

## Facilities



10  80   5Hh    FS

- ➡ Indoor pool
- ➡ Close to St Andrews
- ➡ Fishing available
- ➡ Shop
- ➡ Public transport from outside site





A spacious family-run park with a country park feel, Brighthouse Bay is situated on a quiet secluded peninsula on the edge of the Solway Firth with magnificent views over the Irish Sea. Surrounded by acres of natural walking country with signposted trails over ancient woodland, coastline and farmland, this pet-friendly wildlife haven has its own sandy beach, all-tide slipway and sea and coarse fishing. It boasts an 18-hole championship golf course, driving range, a Leisure Club with indoor pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, gymnasium, amusement room, café (free WiFi), bar lounge, indoor and outdoor bowling, seasonal pony trekking and lots more.



www.gillespie-leisure.co.uk  
info@gillespie-leisure.co.uk

## All year

120 120 35Hh FS

- Own sandy beach
- Coastal and cliff top walks
- 18-hole golf course
- Indoor heated swimming pool
- Cafe, bar, lounge and function room





# Wales

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*Bala Lake & the Aran Hills, Snowdonia*

©Visit Britain/Lec Beol



**Wern Road, Llanddulas, Colwyn  
Bay, North Wales LL22 8HG**

**B**ron-Y-Wendon is an award-winning, five star, AA five pennant, caravan park with 130 pitches, overlooking the sea at Llanddulas in North Wales. The whole park is immaculately gardened with a panoramic coastal view which is truly spectacular. Facilities, all of an exceptional standard, include WiFi and super pitches, heated shower blocks, a laundry, and games room with table tennis and TV. There are many attractions and places to visit in the area including the Snowdonia National Park, Anglesey, Conwy and Chester. Llanddulas beach is just a short walk away and the village has shops and pubs. The park is adjacent to the Wales Coast Path and Cycle Route.



## Contact

01492 512903

northwales-holidays.co.uk

stay@northwales-holidays.co.uk

## Open

All year

## Facilities



20  110   Hh    FS

- ▶ Panoramic coastal view
- ▶ Immaculate touring park
- ▶ Super pitches
- ▶ WiFi
- ▶ Next to Wales Coast Path and Cycle Route





**Betws yn Rhos,  
Conwy LL22 8AU**

**P**las Farm is an award-winning five-star touring caravan and campsite, situated in the grounds of a stunning 16th century Grade II listed farmhouse and spread over 12 acres of unspoilt countryside. A proud winner of the David Bellamy Gold Conservation Award, the site is great for nature lovers and has an abundance of wildlife. A short stroll away from Betws yn Rhos is the local bar and restaurant, as well as an 18-hole golf course, bowling green, tennis courts, church and general store. Three miles to beaches and in easy reach of the A55. An ideal base for exploring attractions from Anglesey to Chester and Snowdonia.

## Contact

01492 680254

[plasfarmcaravanpark.co.uk](http://plasfarmcaravanpark.co.uk)

[info@plasfarmcaravanpark.co.uk](mailto:info@plasfarmcaravanpark.co.uk)

## Open

1 March – 31 October

## Facilities



















54  54  30  Hh   FS



- Immaculate facilities, grounds and pitches
- Woodland/dog walk
- Large, all-weather, hardstanding pitches
- Friendly and helpful
- Campers' kitchen





**Black Rock Sands, Morfa Bycha,  
Porthmadog LL49 9YD**

**G**arreg Goch is a small, family and pet-friendly holiday park with 12 static caravans for hire plus 13 touring or motorhome pitches. The site is level with pitches situated on two areas of the park, one adjacent to the children's play area and a quieter strip towards the edge of the park. The site is extremely well kept, whilst the newly refurbished shop carries a good choice of groceries, milk, ice creams and sweets. There's a dedicated accessible shower/wet room with toilet. Just a few minutes' walk from the site is the two-mile wide Black Rock Sands beach, with fantastic views across to Harlech. Free WiFi for all guests.



## Contact

01766 512210

garreggochpark.co.uk

info@garreggochcaravanpark.co.uk

## Open

1 March – 31 October

## Facilities



13  13   12Hh    FS

- ➡ Small, peaceful site
- ➡ Mountains in backdrop
- ➡ Black Rock Sands five minutes away
- ➡ On-site shop
- ➡ Free WiFi





## Barmouth, Gwynedd LL42 1YR

The AA five pennant site is 100m from a glorious beach and a 25-minute level stroll to Barmouth town centre, making it the closest site to town. Ideal for touring, walking and cycling in north and mid Wales. Cycle Route 8, Wales Coast Path and public transport are nearby. Hardstanding and grass pitches available. Both modern shower blocks have hairdryers and shaver points. Disabled wet room with WC. There is a laundrette, parent and baby room, shop and enclosed play area. Pets are welcome and WiFi is available. Special offers available during spring and autumn. Two fully equipped three bedroom static hire caravans available.



### Contact

01341 280262  
hendremynach.co.uk  
info@hendremynach.co.uk

### Open

1 March – 9 January

### Facilities

WiFi

60 2Hh FS

- ➡ 100m for sandy beaches
- ➡ Family friendly site
- ➡ Nearest site to Barmouth
- ➡ Pet friendly
- ➡ Shop with off-licence





**Tal-y-Bont, Barmouth,  
Gwynedd LL43 2AQ**

**T**his family-owned, five-star rated holiday park, situated at the south of the Snowdonia National Park, offers direct beach access, an indoor pool, sauna, Jacuzzi and the very best in toilet/shower facilities, bar/restaurant, amusement arcade comprising coffee shop and takeaway food. Whilst Barmouth is just a 10-minute drive away it is possible at low tide to walk most of the way along the beach into town without the worry of traffic. Islawrffordd is ideally situated for walking, sailing, fishing, horse riding and golf at a premier welsh course, Royal St David's Golf Club in Harlech, just 15 minutes away.



## Contact

01341 247269

islawrffordd.co.uk

info@islawrffordd.co.uk

## Open

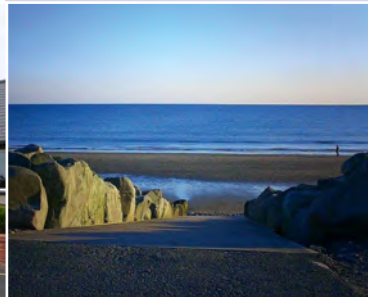
All year

## Facilities



75  75  30  Hh    FS

- ➡ Open all year
- ➡ Direct beach access
- ➡ Slipway
- ➡ Indoor heated swimming pool
- ➡ Fine dining restaurant





**Yr Helyg, Mynytho, Abersoch,  
Gwynedd LL53 7RW**

**Y**r Helyg – The Willows – is a very quiet, small, five-star, multi-award winning, caravan and camping park also offering funky Hobbit pods and the Eye Pod, a unique glamping unit (the only one in the world). Situated on the Llyn Peninsula just above Abersoch. The views from the camping areas and around the site are breathtaking. Charming, uncommercialised, uncrowded, peaceful, no groups, dog-friendly, luxurious facilities, welcoming hosts, impeccable customer care, and surrounded by some of the best beaches in the UK. What more could you want? Escape, relax, unwind.



## Contact

01758 740676

the-willows-abersoch.co.uk

thewillowsabersoch@gmail.com

## Open

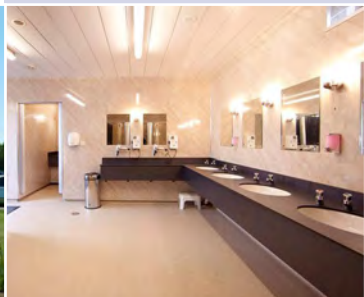
14 March – 17 October

## Facilities

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10 🚗 12 🚐 22 🚚 1Hh 🛖 🛗 🛙 🛚 🛛 🛜 🛝 🛞 🛟 🛠 🛡 🛢 🛣 🛤 🛥 🛦 🛧 🛨 🛩 🛪 🛫 🛬 🛭 🛮 🛯 🛰 🛱 🛲 🛳 🛴 🛵 🛶 🛷 🛸 🛹 🛺 🛻 🛼 🛽 🛾 🛿

- ➡ Hobbit pods
- ➡ Great views
- ➡ Campervan friendly
- ➡ Small, quiet and friendly
- ➡ Impeccable facilities





**Llanaber, Barmouth,  
Gwynedd LL42 1RR**

**T**rawsdir is a five-star park that offers stunning views across Cardigan Bay. The site has 70 touring pitches, all of which are on hardstanding and have electric, fresh water and waste water connections. 30 tent pitches are also available. On-site facilities include showers, toilets, a laundrette and a shop. Trawsdir has been refurbished and landscaped to a very high standard, and now has family pods available (sleeping 5). The site itself is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Snowdonia National Park, and is an ideal base for visiting Harlech, Criccieth and Portmeirion. WiFi available. Open over Christmas and New Year.



## Contact

01341 280999

[trawsdire.co.uk](http://trawsdire.co.uk)

[enquiries@trawsdire.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@trawsdire.co.uk)

## Open

1 March – 6 January

## Facilities

70 70 30 Hh FS

- ➡ State-of-the-art toilet block
- ➡ Well-equipped shop
- ➡ Coast and mountain views
- ➡ Family pub nearby
- ➡ All size units catered for





**T**yddyn Llwyn is within walking distance of Porthmadog, the Welsh Highland/Ffestiniog Railway and Borth-y-Gest, and a few minutes' drive from Black Rock Sands and Portmeirion. All pitches are all-weather/hardstanding and are fully serviced. There are three toilet blocks, all of high quality, and a separate wheelchair accessible shower, wetroom and toilet. There's also a laundrette, games room and outdoor play area. The on-site inn has real ale and good food. The shop offers basic supplies, while nearby Porthmadog has more shops. An excellent location for exploring the Llyn Peninsula. Loyalty scheme for regular guests.



info@tyddynllwyn.com

## 1 March - 31 October

WiFi

120  120  33  53Hh    FS

- ➡ Bar and restaurant
- ➡ Close to Black Rock Sands
- ➡ Ideal for walkers and within walking distance of Porthmadog
- ➡ Award-winning facilities
- ➡ Pitches fully serviced and all-weather





30 90 20 Hh FS

- Large retail and craft centre
- Golf course on site
- Extensive sports facilities
- Two miles of nature trails and cycle paths
- Welsh castle adventure play park





**Llanidloes, Powys,  
Mid Wales SY18 6NE**

A new, high-quality touring park to open Spring 2016. Red Kite Touring Park will be easy accessible directly off the B4518. The park will be situated just one mile from Llanidloes town centre making it easily accessible on foot. All pitches will be fully serviced with 16-amp electricity, grey waste and fresh water and piped TV. Located on a gently sloping, south-facing area with beautiful views across the valley. Facilities will include a reception, WiFi throughout the whole park, top of the range toilet block with laundrette and dog wash. The amenity land will boast two new nature ponds, picnic areas and an enclosed dog run.



## Contact

01686 412122

redkitetouringpark.co.uk

info@redkitetouringpark.co.uk

## Open

March - October

## Facilities



- ➡ Adults only
- ➡ South-facing with valley views
- ➡ Large amenity area with ponds
- ➡ Dog-friendly with large dog walks
- ➡ 15-minute walk to Llanidloes





**Brecon Road, Llandovery,  
Carmarthenshire SA20 0RD**

**N**ear the pretty town of Llandovery, and handy for the Brecon Beacons, Erwlon is a Welsh Tourist Board five-star site that offers 40 spacious pitches. Some of these are full service pitches and all benefit from a fantastic toilet block (that was the Loo of the Year winner 2007 for the whole of Wales). Tranquil and neatly maintained, the site has an outdoor play area for children and also offers bike hire. Llandovery, an ideal base for touring South and West Wales, is within walking distance and well worth a visit, offering a castle, and lots of cafés, pubs, restaurants and takeaways.

## Contact

01550 721021  
erwlon.co.uk  
peter@erwlon.co.uk

## Open

All year

## Facilities

40 40 40 Hh 40 FS



- ➡ Llandovery a short walk
- ➡ Cafés and pubs nearby
- ➡ Ideal for the Brecon Beacons
- ➡ Great touring base for South and West Wales
- ➡ Open all year





**St Davids, Pembrokeshire,  
Wales SA62 6QT**

**F**eaturing an incredible panoramic view, Caerfai Bay offers touring and camping pitches which overlook a bay with a small, sandy beach, which is sheltered and perfect for children, accessed via a path down the cliffs. Facilities include modern toilet blocks with showers and family rooms. A farm shop, open high season only, is adjacent to the site, while St Davids (Europe's smallest city) is a 10-minute walk away and offers teashops, restaurants and pubs along with its splendid cathedral. The site, within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, is immediately adjacent to the Pembrokeshire Coast Footpath.



## Contact

01437 720274

caerfaibay.co.uk

info@caerfaibay.co.uk

## Open

1 March - 13 November

## Facilities



17🚌 25🚌 63⚙️ 8Hh 1🏠 🏠 💰 FS

- ▶ Stunning coastal views
- ▶ Walking distance to St Davids
- ▶ Adjacent to Pembrokeshire Coastal Path
- ▶ Next to Caerfai beach
- ▶ Ideal for families





# Ireland

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Republic of Ireland ... 113



*Slea Head, Co Kerry*

*©istockphoto\_chrisfordwark*

*Inset: Dunluce Castle,*

*Co Antrim*

*©istockphoto\_muesmap*



**40 Castlecatt Road, Bushmills,  
Co Antrim BT57 8TN**

**S**et in beautiful countryside two miles from the Giant's Causeway, Ballyness offers 50 touring pitches set over three areas. These are all on spacious hardstandings with electric hook-ups, fresh and waste water and are central to a well-equipped toilet block (which features accessible facilities, baby-changing area and family room). The outdoor playpark has been extended in 2015 and the indoor games room has pool tables, table tennis and a library. The park also has free WiFi and dogs are welcome. The Causeway Rambler bus calls at the park daily during May – Sept and visits Old Bushmills Distillery, Giant's Causeway and Dunluce Castle.

### Contact

028 2073 2393

[ballynesscaravanpark.com](http://ballynesscaravanpark.com)

[info@ballynesscaravanpark.com](mailto:info@ballynesscaravanpark.com)

### Open

16 March - 2 November

### Facilities



















- ➡ Ideally located for the Giant's Causeway
- ➡ Many festivals in the area
- ➡ Near Bushmills Distillery
- ➡ Close to Dunluce Castle and Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge
- ➡ Near numerous Blue Flag beaches





**Ring of Kerry Coast, Cahirciveen,  
Co Kerry, Republic of Ireland**

**S**ituated at the edge of Europe on the spectacular Gulf Stream coast of Kerry, the pitches face across the bay to the nearby islands, hills and mountains. A full range of facilities include a well-equipped kitchen and dining room, a picnic garden and BBQ. The cosy sitting room, warmed by a turf fire, is the venue for many impromptu music sessions. Has won numerous awards including TripAdvisor Certificates of Excellence for 2013, 2014 and 2015. The park is perfect for watersports, archaeological sites, hill, mountain and foreshore walks, sub-tropical gardens, fishing, Blue Flag beaches, horse riding, bird watching, fabulous cycle and car tours, or simply relaxing.



## Contact

00 353 66 9472806

[campinginkerry.com](http://campinginkerry.com)

mortimer@campinginkerry.com

## Open

15 March - 1 October

## Facilities



- Coastal location
- Award-winning park
- Artists' haven
- Family friendly
- Pets welcome





**Newtown, Glen of Aherlow, Co  
Tipperary, Republic of Ireland**

**G**len of Aherlow is surrounded by glorious scenery in a countryside setting. Being amid hills and woodland means this site has everything for the keen walker and those seeking a peaceful retreat. Woodland walks, the Galtee Mountains and a local pub and hotel are all within walking distance. There are some great stretches of water locally for fishing. Pets will love the open space. Mostly hardstanding pitches, some grass, some fully serviced, all with electric hook-up and water. On-site facilities are ultra-modern and there's a large recreation room with pool table, table tennis and TV lounge. Ideal for RVs. Groups and rallies welcome.



## Contact

00 353 62 56555

tipperarycamping.com

rdrew@eircom.net

## Open

All year

## Facilities



- ➡ The Caravan Club  
Affiliated Site
- ➡ Tranquil setting
- ➡ Countryside views
- ➡ Walkers' paradise
- ➡ Ballyhoura  
Mountain bike trails





## Recommend your 'Premier Parks' to us!

# Nominating and reviewing a potential Premier Park is easy and could reward you with £40 cash

Have you visited a top quality campsite or touring park? Somewhere that really impressed you with its location, facilities or customer service? If you've stayed at an independent campsite that you feel could be a Premier Park then please let us know.

- We need 200-400 words describing the campsite and reasons to visit the area. Be fair: praise good points and criticise any shortcomings.
- Also provide two ratings out of 10: one rating the location and the other rating the campsite itself.
- Please include 4-8 high quality photos showing the campsite, local scenery and attractions, along with a recent headshot of the reviewer.
- Please also list the campsite's full information, to include: address, telephone, email, website, opening dates, pitch charges, nearest public transport, nearest pub/restaurant, and brief directions.

**Simply email all the details to [mmmsites@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:mmmsites@warnersgroup.co.uk)**

*The small print:* Photos should be high quality, at least 1MB each in size. Please keep individual emails below 10MB or ask us for DropBox access. Site reviews received will be considered for publication in a future issue of MMM magazine and if used we will notify and pay the reviewer £40. The Editor's decision is final.





All of the 100 top campsites, touring parks and holiday parks within this brochure have been visited and assessed by our independent editorial team.

When assessing a site the attributes we look for include; a great location, stunning views and perfect pitches, along with grading the quality of facilities and the presentation of the site.

So when planning your next touring holiday, choose a Premier Park for a campsite that is a cut above.

**For the ultimate holiday experience...  
visit us online [premier-parks.co.uk](http://premier-parks.co.uk)**

